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## *A Translational Analysis of Tony Blair's Political Texts*

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### Abstract

A large number of learners and researchers have no idea how political texts are analysed in terms of semantic and communicative translation with showing good results due to several strategies. The study aims at describing the translational analysis that contribute to the understanding of source text as a main tool to convey the main thoughts and ideologies in the political source speech, and explaining how to help the translator in producing target text. The study uses a qualitative analysis based on Newmark's translational model with reference to its semantic and communicative aspects. A selected political texts of Tony Blair (the prime minister of Great Britain at that time) is taken into consideration within the period of power. The translation of these political texts is varied in terms of receivers and the semantics of the political speech plays a significant role in shaping public opinion and international perceptions of the UK's stance on the international issues, in terms of communicative translation analysis, the researcher announces that the Arabic language version of these utterances have been received differently by Arab audiences due to cultural and linguistic differences. The study recommends that translators and researchers must comprehend deeply the sociocultural contexts of both authentic and target mother tongues, they should concentrate on recognising and processing contextual variations to maintain suitable translations, they should think of

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employing mixed processes as integrating literal translation with modulation or adaptation can balance structural precision with cultural relevance.

**Key words:** translation, political texts, semantic translation, communicative translation, source text and target text.

## " تحليل ترجمي للنصوص السياسية لتوني بلير "

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### المستخلص

لا يعرف أغلب الدارسين والباحثين كيفية تحليل النصوص السياسية من حيث الترجمة الدلالية والتواصلية مع إظهار نتائج جيدة بسبب العديد من الاستراتيجيات. تهدف الدراسة إلى وصف إطار التحليل الترجمي الذي يساهم في فهم النص المصدر كأداة رئيسية لنقل الأفكار والأيدولوجيات الرئيسية في النص المصدر السياسي إلى المحلل، وشرح كيفية مساعدة المترجم في إنتاج النص الهدف. تستخدم الدراسة تحليلاً نوعياً يعتمد على نموذج نيومارك الترجمي مع الإشارة إلى جوانبه الدلالية والتواصلية. تم أخذ نصوص سياسية مختارة بنظر الاعتبار لتوني بلير (رئيس وزراء بريطانيا العظمى في ذلك الوقت) خلال فترة حكمه. تتنوع ترجمة هذه النصوص السياسية من حيث المتلقين وتلعب دلالات الخطاب السياسي دوراً مهماً في تشكيل الرأي العام والتصورات الدولية لموقف المملكة المتحدة من القضايا العالمية، من حيث تحليل الترجمة التواصلية، يصرح الباحث أن النسخة العربية من هذه العبارات قد يتم استقبالها بشكل مختلف من قبل الجمهور العربي بسبب الاختلافات الثقافية واللغوية. توصي الدراسة بأن يفهم المترجمون والباحثون السياقات الاجتماعية والثقافية لكل من اللغتين المصدر والهدف بشكل عميق، ويجب عليهم التركيز على التعرف على الاختلافات السياقية ومعالجتها لضمان الترجمات المناسبة، ويجب عليهم التفكير في استخدام أساليب مختلطة حيث يمكن للجمع بين الترجمة الحرفية والتعديل أو التكيف أن يوازن بين الدقة البنوية والأهمية الثقافية.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** الترجمة، النصوص السياسية، الترجمة الدلالية، الترجمة التواصلية، النص المصدر والنص الهدف .

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Translation**

In the literature of translation theory Newmark's terms; semantic translation and communicative translation were quoted, but they publicly had not obtained much discussion. Nida's formal and dynamic equivalence received far more than them because Newmark's raised some of the same items regarding the translation method and the significance of the target text reader. Newmark was criticized for his substantial prescriptivism. The language of his estimations still produces outcomes of what he called the pre-linguistics epoch of translation studies: translations were "smooth" or "awkward"; whereas, translation itself was an art (if semantic) or a 'craft' (if communicative) (Newmark, 1981:39).

Moreover, Newmark (1982:7) vouches that "translation is a profession composing of an endeavour to substitute a written message and/or declaration in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language". He proposes two major kinds of translation; semantic translation and communicative translation. Firstly, semantic translation which aims at transferring the semantic and syntactic texture of the source text. It focuses on the content of the message rather than its influence, and in this type the translator is very loyal source text. Secondly, communicative translation that aims at presenting the same impact on the target texts' readers as that of the genuine source text. It assures the power of the message rather than its content, the translator of this type gives himself the right to eliminate vagueness, remove repetition, add certain lexical items in his rendering to create notion and cultural content of the source text more accessible to the reader.(ibid)

### **1.2. Methods of Translation**

The theorists discussed types of translation methods they might be very useful in pedagogical translation process. Some of them are: according to Venuti (1988: 240)

1. Literal Translation: In this type, the text is usually translated sentence by sentence. The T.L text conforms to its grammar style.
2. Faithful translation: It is an attempt to reproduce contextual material in terms of meaning within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures.
3. Smart translation: In smart or (intelligent) translation the translator studies the style of the SL text's author. Then he impersonates him/her and tries to rewrite the SL text on his/her behalf.
4. Creative (a free) translation): In this method equivalents shift freely up and down looking for the appropriate content message.
5. Adaptation: This kind of translation is very common in the translation of literary works, the translator has the complete freedom to convert the SL cultural situation to the TL culture.
6. Idiomatic translation: This is considered a lively form of translation where a reproduction of the content of the original occurs but colloquial expressions which are not found in the SL are incorporated in the TL text to create natural situation in the translation.

7. Full translation: In full translation, every part of the SL text is replaced by TL equivalent material, in case there is no equivalence, approximation of a like TL concepts are applicable.
8. Partial translation: in this sort of translation some part of the text are left un translated in literary translation.
9. Word-for word-translation: in this type, the text is translated word by word with the same structure of the SL, the final product is bad or wrong.
10. Summary translation: The translator summarizes the topic of the SL text, then he decides which parts of that text need.
11. Literary Arabicization: This type should not be confused with Arabicization as a method of translating new signified words, it is an Arabicization of the literary text itself.
12. Semantic translation: It is a more flexible method of translating, it makes some kind of comparison over the SL text in order to achieve the aesthetic value in the TL text.
13. Communicative Translation: This attempts to render the exact contextual material or meaning, of the original text, both content and language are acceptable to the reader using metaphors, slang, technical terms and ordinary language.

### **1.2.1.Semantic Translation**

Semantic translation aims at rendering as nearly as the semantic and syntactic textures of the target language in the light of the accurate contextual meaning of the source one. It continues within the authentic culture and helps the reader only with its connotations conveying the (non-ethic) message of the text. The Semantic translation requires the translators to recreate the authentic text out of the original language to the target language as much as possible. It is always considered as “inferior to its original” since it contains the “loss of meaning”, i.e., sometimes it is inaccurate. Therefore, semantic translation approach shows that translation “tends to be more complex, awkward, detailed, and more concentrated. It pursues the thought-processes rather than the intention of the transmitter”. It heads for “over translate, to be more specific than the original text, to include more meanings in its search for one nuance of meaning”.( Newmark 1981:60)

### **1.2.2. Communicative Translation**

Peter Newmark (1988:81) states that “communicative translation attempts to produce on the readers an effect as close as possible to that obtained on the readers of the original”. And “communicative translation addresses itself solely to the target reader, who does not anticipate difficulties or obscurities, and would expect a generous transfer of foreign elements into his own culture as well as his language where necessary”. Moreover, the communicative translation approach is most likely “smoother, simpler, clearer, more useful, direct, conventional, and conforming to a particular register of language, as well as is tending to under translate”, it uses more generic terms within complicated paragraph. likewise, the translator, in communicative translation, should transform the culture of the original language to the culture of the target language. Also, the translator must authorize the readers of his translation to understand the thoughts of the original text author. (Newmark, 1981: 39)

### **1.3. Kinds of Translation**

Brislin(1976: 3-4) mentions that: in terms of the purpose, translation can be classified into these kinds:

A)pragmatic: Pragmatic translation refers to the translation of a message with an interest in preciseness of the input used to be conveyed to the target language form. Belonging to such translation is the translation of technical information, such as repairing prescript.

B) aesthetic-poetic: The second sort is aesthetic-poetic translation that does not only concentrate on the input, but also on the emotion, feeling, beauty included in the genuine writing.

C) ethnographic: The third kind is ethnographic translation that explains the cultural context of the original and second language versions.

D) linguistic translation: The last sort is linguistic translation, the one that deals with equivalent meanings of the constituent morphemes of the second language and with grammatical form.

**1.4. Text:** Lyons (1981:195) states that the basic assumption is that any text can be considered as a constituent of context of situation. text is a term used in linguistics to refer to a stretch of language recorded for the purpose of analysis and description.(Crystal, 1991:350)

**1.4.1. Source Text:** original text is the text written or spoken which supplies the point of departure for a translation, except in the case of Intersemiotic or Intralingual translation. The authentic text will be typically an original text written in source language SL to be read then converted to the target language TL.(Shuttle worth and cowie,1997:157)

**1.4.2.Target Text:** target text is taken from its posited original text in correspondence with a specific translation strategy. Target texts differ largely in the extent to which they correspond to the standards of the target system relying on the function which they are intended to fulfill, and it is the other converted copy of the source text ST. ( Shuttleworth and Cowie, 1997:164)

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1. Introduction**

The procedures that had been adopted, in this study, for collecting and analysing the data (the selected political texts of Tony Blair within the period of 2003) were going to be described through this section. It explained the research methodology used in this study which was qualitative. In addition, it adopted an eclectic model for translating and analysing political texts in terms of translation. The selected models were Newmark's model and Ruth Wodak's model. Newmark's translational model was selected as an instrument of analysis for the political texts and consisted of two aspects; firstly, semantic translation and secondly, communicative translation.

### **2.2. Materials**

This study attempted to apply Newmark's translational model. Seven political texts were taken from the website for the translational analysis of these political texts according to the elements of this selected model. These Seven selected political texts were utilized as

the material of analysis to reveal the manipulation of translational model; semantics and communicative aspects. The selected political texts were included in section three.

### **2.3. Design**

This study adopted a qualitative method of analysis which was a method of research, wherein there were numerous data collection, ranging from interviews, articles, descriptive vignettes, and/or speeches (Croker, 2009: 3-4). In the case of this study, the data of analysis were political texts. Moreover, the enquiry was done according to Newmark's model of translation. Therefore, the methodology followed was based on Newmark's translational model.

### **2.4. Instruments**

A practical model adopted in this study; the Newmark's translational model which was classified into semantic and communicative aspects.

### **2.5. Translation Model**

In the literature of translation theory Newmark's terms; semantic translation and communicative translation were quoted, but they publicly had not obtained much discussion. Nida's formal and dynamic equivalence received far more than them because Newmark's raised almost the same tips regarding the translation method and the significance of the target text reader. Newmark was reviewed for his substantial prescriptivism. His estimations language as yet produces outcomes of what he called the pre- linguistics period of translation studies: translations were "smooth" or "awkward"; while translation itself was an art (if semantic) or a 'craft' (if communicative) (Newmark, 1981:39).

Thus, Newmark (1981:63) also indicated that semantic translation varied from literal translation in a way that it 'respected context', interpreted and even clarified an expression ( political text , for example). Literal translation, meant word-for-word in its latest translation. Newmark mentioned two kinds of translation as follows:

#### **2.5.1. Semantic Translation Model**

This model of translation explains how the translator endeavoured to render as near as the semantic and syntactic constructions of the target language. Newmark, (1988: 39-53) suggests the principal segments of semantic translation as they were summed up:

1. It attempts to produce the precise "contextual meaning" of the source text (i.e. as neatly as the semantic and syntactic structure of original language permits).
2. It is less influential, but it is more instructive.
3. It constantly includes imperfect meaning due to its inferiority to its originality.
4. It deals with the sender sometimes as a person, and overwhelmingly in contradistinction both to culture and to the standards of the language.
5. It is broad and international.
6. It ties to recreate the exact characteristic and tone of the source text: the words are sacred, not because they are more significant than content, because form and content are one.
7. It is sometimes both encyclopedic and linguistic.

8. It is mainly an art due to its dependence on the translator.

### **2.5.2. Communicative Translation Model**

This model also tries to produce contextual meaning precisely based on the source language in such a way that both content and language were easily reasonable and understandable to the readership (Newmark, 1988: 47). He also presents the characteristics of communicative translation:

*“1.It attempts to give sense to the addressee as close as possible to that obtained by the readers of the ST.2. It focuses on force rather than content of the message.3. It is likely to be simpler, smoother, more direct, clearer and more conventional, conforming to certain registers of language. 4. Usually in the context of language and cultural variety, it is concerned mainly with receptors.5. It works on narrow basis, it is translator made for one category of relationship does one job and fulfills a particular function.6. It is strictly functional”. Newmark (1988: 39-53)*

In addition to the above mentioned information and quotations, Munday had proposed several distinctions between communicative and semantic translation in terms of the meaning of the source language and target language texts and in virtue of the domains in which these processes of translation were employed:

*“1. Semantic translation helps the TL text reader only show the connotation if it is a crucial part of the message and it also focuses on the thought processes of the transmitter as an individual. In contrast, communicative translation is subjective because it focuses on the TL text reader.2. Semantic translation does not give any significant importance to the cultural content of the SL text, so the TL text reader by himself/ herself classifies this cultural content of SL in order to understand these norms. In contrast, communicative translation transfers the foreign elements into and according to the TL culture norms.3. Semantic translation is suitable for literature, personal, effusion, political statement, autobiography, etc., while communicative translation is suitable for the vast majority of standardized texts, publicity, non-literary writing and informative texts.4. Semantic translation is accurate in the reproduction of the significance of the SL, while communicative translation is accurate in the communication of the SL message in the TL”. (Munday ,2008: 290-291).*

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **3.1. Political Texts Analysis in terms of Newmark’s Translational Model**

This model is a scope that sketches the different translation strategies that can be used when translating from one language to another. This model clarifies three major kinds of translation strategies: semantic translation, communicative translation, and cultural translation. Some ideas for how researchers may analyse Tony Blair's political texts depending on Newmark's model are as follows:

**Semantic Translation:** This method includes translating the meaning of the source text, rather than focusing on the precise style or wording. In the analysis of Blair's texts employing this strategy, researchers might search for samples of how the meaning of certain words, phrases or sentences have been converted from English to Arabic. For

instance, one could compare the source and target texts to illustrate cases where synonyms or culturally-specific expressions have been utilized in the target text to transmit the same meaning as the original text.

**Communicative Translation:** This way comprises converting the function of the original text, rather than concentrating on the form. Through the analysis of Blair's political texts employing this strategy, researchers might look for patterns of how the target text has been manifested to conform with the communicative goal of the authentic text. For example, one could compare the source and target texts to identify cases where the target text has been restructured to better fit the target audience, or where certain information has been emphasized or de-emphasized in the target text to accomplish a particular communicative action.

In general, the analysis of Blair's political texts using Newmark's Translational Model can supply perception into the different translation strategies at play in the translation process, and how those strategies affect the final translated output.

### **3.1.1. Semantic Translation Analysis of Seven Political Texts**

Seven speeches of Tony Blair's political texts in English and their matching to translations in Arabic, to be analysed in terms of Semantic Translation:

1. English Source Text: "We must never forget that the most important thing about fighting terrorism is not the military tactics we use, but the values we stand for".

Arabic Target Text:

"لا يجب أن ننسى أبدًا أنّ الشيء الأهم في مكافحة الإرهاب ليس التكتيكات العسكرية التي نستخدمها، بل القيم التي ندافع عنها."

In this example, the target text appears to have focused on conveying the meaning of the authentic text, rather than reproducing the exact wording. The Arabic translation uses a more literal translation of "fighting terrorism" and "military tactics," but effectively conveys the same idea.

2. English Source Text: "Education is the best economic policy there is".

Arabic Target Text:

"التعليم هو أفضل سياسة اقتصادية ممكنة."

In this example, the target text again appears to have focused on conveying the meaning of the original text, rather than reproducing the exact wording. The Arabic translation uses a more literal translation of "economic policy," but effectively conveys the same idea.

3. English Source Text: "We need to work together to tackle the challenge of climate change".

Arabic Target Text:

"يجب أن نعمل معًا لمواجهة تحدي التغير المناخي."



In this example, the target text uses a slightly different phrasing than the source text, but effectively conveys the same idea. The Arabic translation employs a more literal translation of "tackle" and "challenge," but impressively transfers the same meaning.

4. English Authentic Text: "The war on terror is not a conventional war. It is a war fought against terrorists who are prepared to kill without limit, without mercy, and without remorse".

Arabic Target Text:

"لا تعد الحرب على الإرهاب حربًا تقليدية، بل هي حرب ضد الإرهابيين الذين يستعدون للقتل بدون حدود ولا رحمة ولا ندم."

In this example, the target text uses a more literal translation of "war on terror," "conventional war," and "terrorists," but effectively conveys the same idea.

5. English Source Text: "We must all ensure that the benefits of globalization are shared more fairly".

Arabic Target Text:

"يجب علينا جميعًا ضمان مشاركة فوائد العولمة بشكل أكثر عدالة."

In this example, the target text utilize a more literal translation of "globalization" and "shared more fairly," but efficiently transmits the same idea.

Generally speaking, the instances propose that the translator intended to convey the meaning of the original text in a clear and brief way, employing a combination of literal and idiomatic translation. The target texts utilize several phrasing and word choices than the source texts, but impressively transmit the same concepts.

6- English Source Text: "We must be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime." (Speech to the Labour Party Conference, 1995)

Arabic Target Text:

"يجب أن نكون صارمين في مواجهة الجريمة وأسبابها."

In this speech, the English authentic text asserts the necessity to be "tough on crime" and its reasons. The word "tough" connotes a feel of seriousness and determination, and is often connected to a strong stance on law and order. In the Arabic target text, the word "صارمين" is employed to translate "tough." Connotation of seriousness and determination can be similarly seen in this word, but also connotes strictness and severity .

In the utilization of semantic translation, the researcher could notice how the intended meaning of the English authentic text is transferred to an Arabic-speaking audience. The Arabic target text shows the underlying message of the English source text, whereas also fitting to the cultural and linguistic context of the target text.

In general, this case distinguishes how semantic translation can be employed to analyse the meaning and connotations of words and phrases in political discourse, and how they are suited to various cultural and linguistic contexts.

7-English Source Text: "Education, education, education." (Speech to the Labour Party Conference, 1996)

Arabic Target Text:

"التعليم، التعليم، التعليم."

Through this discourse, the English authentic text underline the importance of education by reiterating the word "education" thrice. This reiteration benefits to support the message and create a sense of urgency. In the Arabic target text, the word "التعليم" is utilized to translate "education." This word connotes the concept of learning and acquiring knowledge, and is commonly utilized in Arabic to point to formal education.

Through the performance of semantic translation, the researcher can note how to transfer the intended meaning of the English authentic text to an Arabic-speaking audience. The Arabic target text reveals the implicit message of the English source text, while also adapting to the cultural and linguistic context of the target audience.

In public, this utterance manifests how semantic translation can be employed to analyse the meaning and connotations of words and phrases in political discourse, and how they are set to different cultural and linguistic contexts. It also shows how reiteration can be utilized as a rhetorical device to support a message and make a sense of urgency.

### **3.1.2. Communicative Translation Analysis of Seven Political Texts**

Seven speeches of Tony Blair's political texts in English source texts and their identical translations in Arabic target texts are to be analysed according to Communicative Translation:

1. English Source Text: "We must never forget that the most important thing about fighting terrorism is not the military tactics we use, but the values we stand for".

Arabic Target Text :

"لا يجب أن ننسى أبداً أنّ الشيء الأهم في مكافحة الإرهاب ليس التكتيكات العسكرية التي نستخدمها، بل القيم التي ندافع عنها."

In this speech, the target text has been adapted to suit the communicative purpose of the original text. The authentic sentence emphasizes the significance of values in fighting terrorism, while the Arabic translation employs the word) "ندافع" defend) to assert the responsibility of standing up for those values.

2. English Source Text: "Education is the best economic policy there is".

Arabic Target Text:

"التعليم هو أفضل سياسة ممكنة اقتصادياً."

In this speech, the target text has been set to fit the communicative goal of the original text. The authentic sentence asserts the necessity of education as an economic policy, while the Arabic translation employs the word "أفضل" (best) to assure the superiority of education over other economic policies.

3. English Original Text: "We need to work together to tackle the challenge of climate change".

Arabic Target Text:

"يجب العمل معاً لمواجهة تحدي التغير المناخي."

In this discourse, the target text has been used to be convenient to the communicative objective of the source text. The original sentence asserts the prominence of collective action in addressing climate change, while the Arabic translation utilizes the word "مواجهة" (confront) to assure the urgency of the challenge.

4. English Authentic Text: "The war on terror is not a conventional war. It is a war fought against terrorists who are prepared to kill without limit, without mercy, and without remorse".

Arabic Target Text:

"لا تعد الحرب على الإرهاب حرباً تقليدية، بل هي حرب ضد الإرهابيين الذين يستعدون للقتل بدون حدود ولا رحمة ولا ندم."

In this speech, the target text has been regulated to fit the communicative aim of the original text. The authentic sentence asserts the unconventional nature of the war on terror, whereas, the Arabic translation employs descriptive language to assure the brutality of the terrorists.

5. English Original Text: "We must all ensure that the benefits of globalization are shared more fairly".

Arabic Target Text :

"يجب على الجميع ضمان مشاركة فوائد العولمة بشكل أكثر عدالة."

In this discourse, the target text has been adjusted to fit the communicative goal of the source text. The original sentence assures the importance for fair distribution of the employment of globalization, whereas, the Arabic translation utilizes the word "عدالة" (justice) to assert the necessity of fairness. The utterances suggest that the translator aimed to adapt the target text to suit the communicative objective of the source text, while also taking into consideration the cultural context and audience of the target text. Several translation strategies were used in each speech to achieve these goals, highlighting the significance of regarding the particular context and aim of each text when translating.

6- English authentic Text: "We are all internationalists now, whether we like it or not".

Arabic Target Text:

"الآن الجميع عالميون، سواء أردنا ذلك أم لا."

In this discourse, the target text has been regulated to be suitable to the communicative goal of the source text. The authentic sentence assures the inevitability of globalization and the significance of global cooperation, while the Arabic translation utilizes the word ) "عالميون" (global citizens) to emphasize the interconnectedness of people around the world.

7.English Source Text: "The art of leadership is saying no, not yes".

Arabic Target Text:

"فن القيادة يكمن في القول لا، لا في القول نعم."

In this example, the target text has been adapted to suit the communicative purpose of the source text. The original sentence emphasizes the importance of making difficult decisions as a leader, while the Arabic translation uses a parallel structure to emphasize the contrast between saying "no" and saying "yes".

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

The researcher has concluded the followings:

1-Based on the analysis of Tony Blair's texts using semantic translation, it can be concluded that there are differences in the way language is used in English and Arabic, which can affect the interpretation of political messages. As for the results above, the researcher states that the translation of political texts can be a complex process that involves not only the literal translation of words, but also the adaptation of language and message to the target audience and cultural context.

In this matter, the researcher announces that all these outcomes reflect the significance of regarding the cultural and linguistic context of the target text when translating political texts. The analysis of the English original texts and Arabic target texts highlights the challenges of transferring the intended meaning of political messages across various languages and cultures, and clarifies the necessity for translators to have a deep comprehension of the cultural and linguistic nuances of both the authentic and target languages.

Generally speaking, semantic translation analysis of Tony Blair's political texts assures the seriousness of examining the cultural and linguistic context of political messages, and stresses the challenges of transferring these messages accurately across different languages and cultures.

2-According to communicative translation analysis of Tony Blair's political texts, it can be concluded that the translation of political texts involves more than just the literal translation of words; it also comprises the adaptation of language and message to be convenient to the communicative purpose and cultural context of the target audience.

The researcher, according to the results above, concludes that all these outcomes show that the translation of political texts requires a deep comprehension of the cultural and linguistic nuances of both the authentic and target languages. The analysis of the English original texts and Arabic target texts illustrates how translators must thoroughly take into account the communicative purpose of the original text and adapt the translation to be suitable to the cultural and linguistic context of the target audience.

Moreover, the analysis explains that communicative translation can be a complex method that requires not only linguistic skills, but also cultural and political knowledge. The translator must be acquainted with the political and cultural context of the source text, as

well as the cultural and linguistic context of the target audience, in order to accurately convey the intended message.

Overall, Tony Blair's political texts analysis in terms of communicative translation assures the necessity of taking into consideration the communicative goal and cultural context of political messages, and highlights the challenges of precisely transmitting these messages across various languages and cultures.

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