

## II.2. Focus on the Facts

The second sub-principle of Faithfulness is "Focus on the facts" of the original. In essence, every point, every detail, every statement, whether offered as an opinion, a suggestion, an instance of common knowledge or an inarguable fact, are all considered as "facts" of the original text and therefore must be conveyed faithfully in the derived form, whether they were major or minor points. To this end, then, the translator must perform a kind of inventory of all the "factual" elements of the original, sentence-by-sentence, paragraph-by-paragraph, section-by-section, and beyond. It may require nothing more than simply underlining key words and phrases in the original (before translating) or it may require careful outlining. While all factual elements in the original are considered relevant, the following representative rule of this sub-principle of Faithfulness suggests an important strategy:

- Identify key elements in the original text.

## II.3. Focus on the Style

We now consider the third sub-principle of Faithfulness; "Focus on the style." Here we are referring to different aspects of style and manner, including degrees, or levels, of formality, familiarity, technicality, sophistication and expression. Is the original text written in a highly familiar, intimate style, or in an impersonal, detached style, or perhaps somewhere in between? The translator, before beginning his or her task, must identify critical aspects of the style and manner of communication that has to do with both the original writer's own perspectives, but also

with what the original writer assumed in terms of his or her reader's abilities, capabilities and levels/degrees of comprehensibility. A useful representative rule for this sub-principle is as follows:

- Determine the original writer's relationship to the targeted audience.

## II.4. Focus on the Point of View

Finally, the fourth sub-principle of Faithfulness is "Focus on the point of view." Here the translator must be very careful to determine the original writer's attitude, bias, and mood toward the subject of the original text. Underlying implications, assumptions, values and nuances should be sought after. This is often the most difficult, as well as the most overlooked, rule of Faithfulness. It is not enough for the translator to simply translate a text without taking special effort to learn as much as possible about the original author's actual and intended point of view. Throughout history there are numerous examples of incorrect translations of important works that were unsuccessful because the translator did not take the time or energy to find out more about the original writer than could be gleaned from the target text. Cultural values and coding can often remain hidden to the passive eye, where subtle (and not so subtle) nuances can be missed. The more the translator knows about the original writer, the better he or she will understand the original text, and likely, the more faithful the derived (translated) text will be as a result. A representative rule of this sub-principle is listed below.

- Determine the original writer's key identity elements.