**HAUSA TRANSLATOR AND THE EMERGING SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA: A WORD OF CAUTION**

**By**

**IBRAHIM GARBA SATATIMA Ph.D**

**Department of Nigerian Languages and Linguistics**

**BAYERO University, KANO**

**dalladialo67@yahoo.com**

A Paper Presented at the 10th NITI Congress held at the University of Lagos,Nigeria.

27th --- 28th September, 2012

**Abstract**

This paper titled “ The Hausa Translator and the Emerging Challenges of Security in Nigeria” is designed in order to give an outline of certain words currently used by Hausa translators in some selected media in the country. The words are used in such a way that they will distort meaning or even create a tension between the parties involved in a conflict. The current security challenge pose a danger to most translators that do not take into cognisance the politics of proper and adequate translation. Instead of passing information such news items tend to provoke anger and degenerate into chaos. Sample of English words translated into Hausa were used as examples.

1.0 **Introduction**

Translation has been defined by many scholars as an art of giving a meaning similar to a word or phrase in a language from another to another.According to Nida(1974) translation is “consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style”. The Oxford Dictionary however define translation as to”express in another language or other word..”. Thus, whenever a portion of a linguistic components is given in its equivalent in another language the art of trasnlation has taken place.

**1.1 Hausa –EnglishTranslation**

Many books or papers were written on the relationship that exist between Hausa and English language. The languages in the present context are used as a vehicle of passing information among the people of the federal Republic of Nigeria, the former an indiginous while the latter a foreign and official language of the country. Language is an important aspect of human development and it is a strong tool of achieving human goals. Little or no success is recorded in any social endevors without the use of language. Thus the usefulness of language as a unifying factor or force is foremost seen in its use for securing people.

Nigeria is a multilingual nation. Therefore all information to be passed to the general public has to be translated into any of the major or minor language. This linguistic pluralism necessitated the need for a language understanding to enable easy passage of information. The mass media both written and oral play a vital role hear in information dessimination. Local and foreign media adopt the usage of translation to pass any news item from the official English language to the local languages. It was observed that these mass media adopted certain words in Hausa as equivalence to the English words. It is the opinion of this paper that the translators did not fulfill the major concept outline by many scholars on the art of translating.

Nida(1974) has outlined three major task of any translator as his technical procedures thes are analysis of two languages, analysis of the source language text, and the provision of equivalence in the target language. Therefore for any successful and effective translation to take place above has to be taken into cognisance.

**1.3 Security**

The Oxford dictionary define the word security as being secure and also as precautions taken against espionage, theft, murder,maim and many vices. The present security concern in Nigeria the northern part in particular calls for restrain and professionalism on the part of mass media outlet. Thus, all news items to be translated into any of the native language has to be done with cautions.

**1.3 Sample of Words/Phrases**

1.3.1 IED =Improvised explosive device---bam,bam hadin gida

1.3.2 Insurgents insurgency------- bore, ‘yan bore, ta da kayar baya

1.3.3 Terrorist/terrorism------- ‘yan ta’adda, ta’addanci

1.3.4 Gun dual/exchange of fire--------- musayar wuta,musayar harbe-harbe

1.3.5 Explosion was heard------ an ji karar bam, an ji kara mai tsanani

1.3.6 Some sounds of high magnitude were heard yestarday close to the market---- an ji karar bama-bamai jiya a kusa da kasuwa

1.3.7 Hide out of the armed robbers--- mafakar ‘yan fashi, maboyar ‘yan fashi

**1.4 Implications**

Above sample of translations from a media outlet can have varying implications as follows

a)exaggeration- here the term “ bam” is a loan into Hausa language describe an IED

b) ambiguity as in the case of example 1.3.4

c) non-equivalence as in 1.3.7

**1.5 Conclusion**

This paper examine some sample of translations on certain security related terms into Hausa by some mass media. In recognition of the need to have a simple but purposeful meaning delivery it posited the need for the translators to have more knowledge on the receptor language.

References

Gwammaja,Danlami Bala(2011). ‘Componential Analysis of Meaning: A Case Study of English-Hausa Lexical Translation”. A Post Graduate Seminar .Department of Nigerian Languages and Linguistics, Bayero University, Kano.

Isah, Sa’adatu Ada’u.(20120. “Hausa a Jaridun Hausa: Nazari kan Jaridar Aminya da Leadership Hausa”. A Post Graduate Seminar, Department of Nigerian Languages and Linguistics, Bayero University, Kano.

Ladan,Salisu Muhammad (2002).Translation Techniques. Kano: Natprint Services ltd

Nida,Eugene,A(1964).Toward a Science of Translating.Leiden:E.J.Brill.

‘Yangora,Maryam Mani (2011).”Fassara da Bayanan Wasu Kalmomin Likitancin Zamani na Lafyar Yara”.A Post Graduate Seminar.Department of Nigerian Languages and Linguistics, Bayero University,Kano.