



# **TEXT TYPOLOGY AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN TRANSLATION**

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# Translation



Translation is a very broad, complex and multi-faceted phenomenon, encompassing much more factors than it seems at first glance. It is not just copying the words from the original work while changing the language, but it consists of a careful selection of appropriate phrases and expressions, combining them together in a skillful way while taking into consideration numerous aspects, one of them being the **text type**.

# Text



Text may be defined as a certain communicative action of a complex structure that functions in a specific semantic space and is to fulfil specific functions, for example: informative, aesthetic, pragmatic function, etc. (Damska Prokop, 2000). It is this function that determines the text's characteristic features. Therefore, according to this definition, a text is perceived not only as a result of a certain effort of the sender, but also, and above all, as a product that is able to fulfil its communicative function in the process of the appropriate interpretation by a reader.

# Genre



Genres are the text categories readily distinguished by mature speakers of a language. Texts used in a particular situation for a particular purpose may be classified using everyday labels such as a guidebook, a nursery rhyme, a poem, a business letter, a newspaper article, a radio play, an advertisement, etc. Such categories are referred to as genres (Trosborg, 1997).

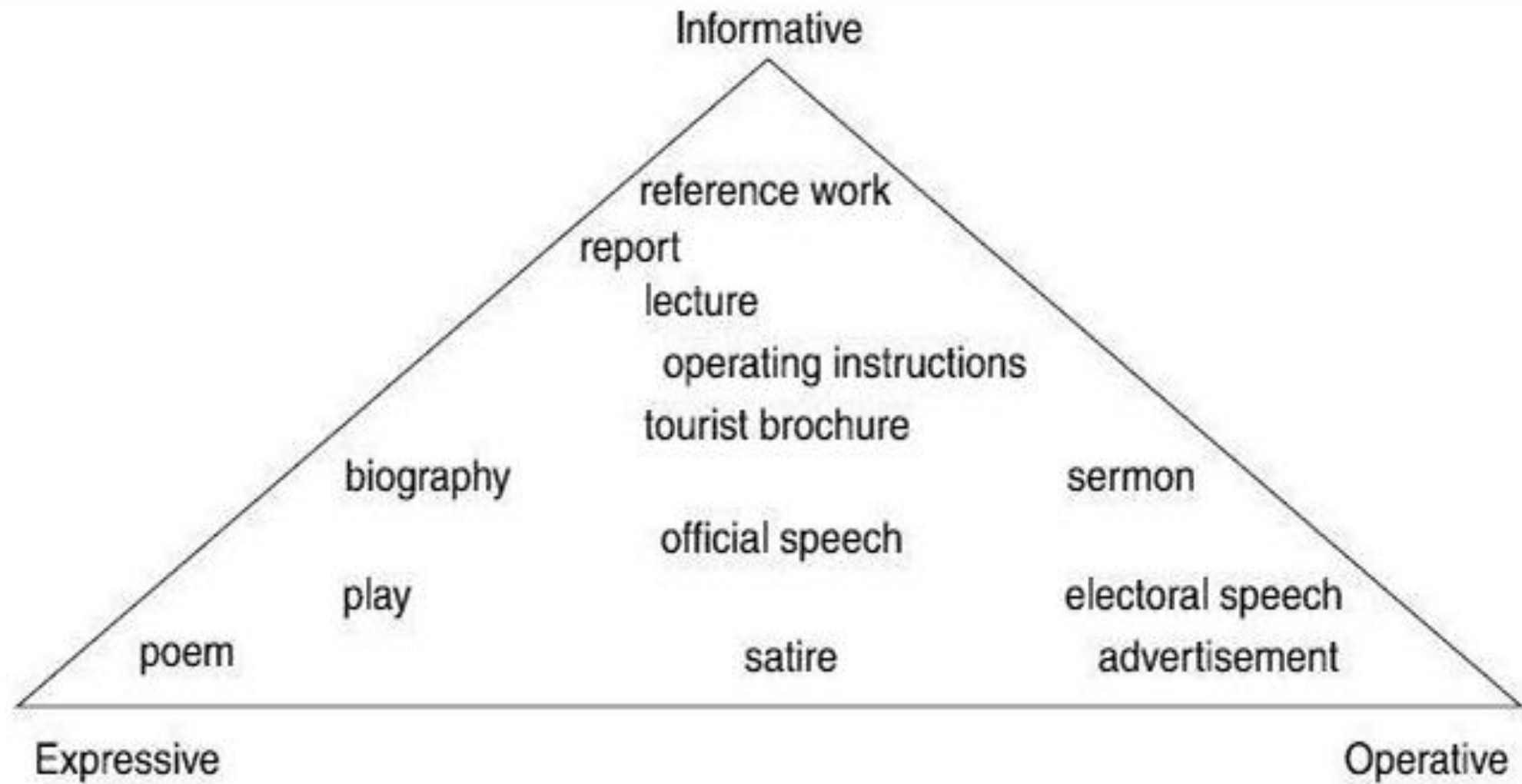
# Language Function Analysis



One of the most influential attempts to categorize language functions was introduced by the famous psychologist **Karl Bühler** (1934). In his model, Bühler identifies and interrelates three “ fundamental functions of natural language in communication: the expression of the speaker, the appeal to the receiver, and the representation of the object or state of affair being communicated.



Based on the three language functions, **Katharina Reiss** (1971) defined a classification of text types, which relates to the intention of the author of a text. In particular, she distinguished between the form-focused expression of the author's attitudes in expressive texts, the aim of making an appeal to the reader in appellative (or operative) texts, and the content-focused description of objects and facts in informative texts. Reiss assigned several concrete text types such as "report" (informative), "novel" (expressive), "advertisement" (operative). Although she claimed that a **hybrid type** is the regular case as in "religious sermon", "tourist brochure" and "biography of a major political figure", she observed that one function is predominant in most texts.



# Functional characteristics of text types and links to translation methods (Reiss 1971)

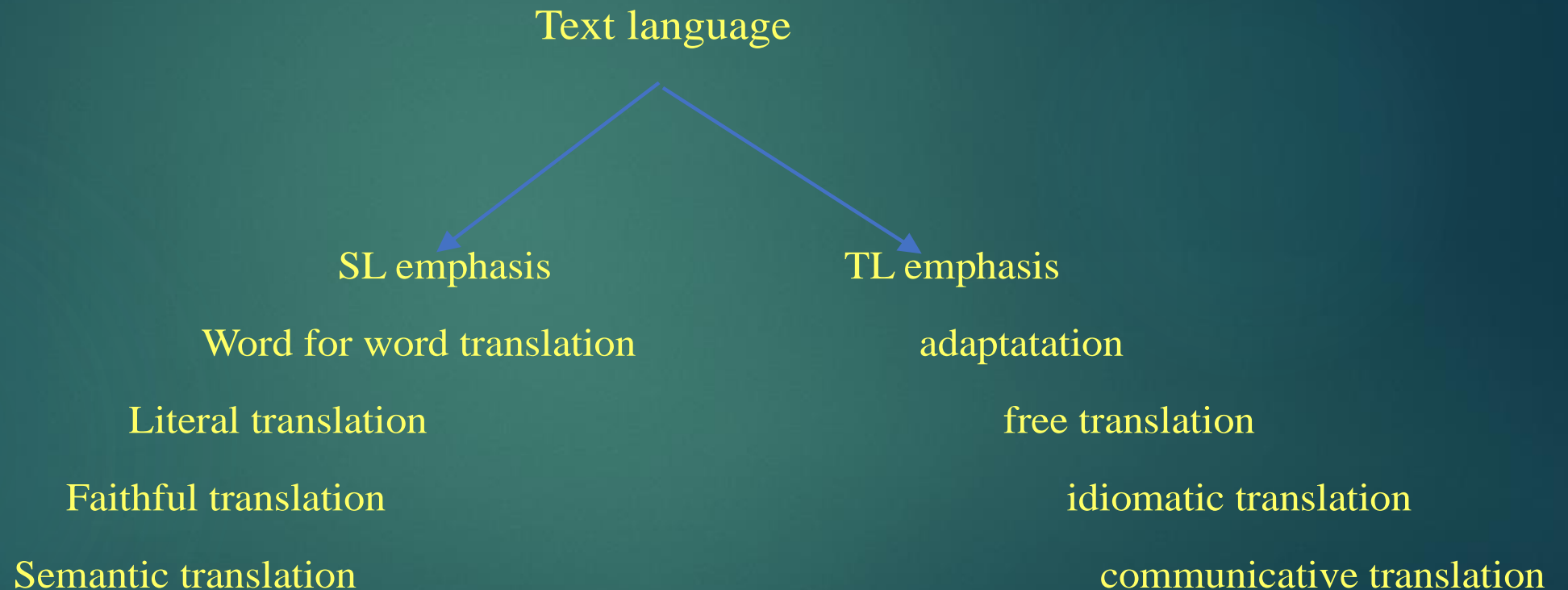
<i>Text type</i>	<i>Informative</i>	<i>Expressive</i>	<i>Operative</i>
Language function	Informative (representing objects and facts)	Expressive (expressing sender's attitude)	Appellative (making an appeal to text receiver)
Language dimension	Logical	Aesthetic	Dialogic
Text focus	Content-focused	Form-focused	Appellative-focused
TT should . . .	Transmit referential content	Transmit aesthetic form	Elicit desired response
Translation method	'Plain prose', explicitation as required	'Identifying' method, adopt perspective of ST author	'Adaptive', equivalent effect



**Peter Newmark** divided text genres into "expressive text", "informative text", and "vocative text". Imaginative literary works, such as poems, songs, novels and dramas, authoritative statements, autobiographies, essays and personal correspondence, etc., are expressive texts. All the formatted texts with science and technology, industry and commerce, and economy as themes belong to informative texts. Vocative text refers to all texts that can urge readers and make them “get information”.

# Translation Strategies

After putting forward these three text types, Peter Newmark (1988) suggested eight translation approaches or strategies in his book “A textbook of translation” taking the emphasis on text language into consideration:



# William Shakespeare, 1564 – 1616

## Sonnet 18 XVIII (1609)

- ▶ Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
- ▶ Thou art more lovely and more temperate:

:Literal translation

هل اشبّهك بيوم صيفي؟  
بل أنت أجمل وأكثر اعتدالاً

المترجم عبد الصاحب مهدي علي

أقول أشبّهتَ الربيعَ طباعاً  
وطباعُكَ الأحنى وحسُنُكَ كاملٌ؟

المترجم محمد عناني

ألا تشبهين صفاء المصيف  
بل أنت أحلى وأصفى سماء

المترجمة فطينة النائب

من ذا يقارن حسنك المغربي بصيف قد تجلى  
وفنون سحرك قد بدت في ناظري أسمى وأغلى

## President-elect Donald Trump declared victory in the 2024 presidential election over Kamala Harris in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

- Thank you very much. Wow. Well, I want to thank you all very much. This is great. These are our friends. We have thousands of friends in this incredible movement. This was a movement like nobody's ever seen before, and frankly, this was, I believe, the greatest political movement of all time. There's ever been anything like this in this country, and maybe beyond.

► شكرًا جزيلاً لكم. رائع. حسنًا، أود أن أشكركم جميعًا شكرًا جزيلاً. هذا رائع. هؤلاء هم أصدقاؤنا. لدينا آلاف الأصدقاء في هذه الحركة الرائعة التي لم يشهدها أحد من قبل. وبصراحة، أعتقد أنها كانت أعظم حركة سياسية على الإطلاق، فلم يحدث أن شهدنا شيئاً مماثلاً من قبل في هذا البلد، وربما في أماكن أخرى.

## شارع المتنبي

يعد شارع المتنبي واحداً من أهم شوارع مدينة بغداد لما له من مكانة بين الأدباء والشعراء والمثقفين. فهو يضم على جانبيه العديد من المكتبات الزاخرة بالكتب النفيسة والمطابع العريقة بالإضافة إلى موقعه المطل على نهر دجلة. أُطلق عليه اسم شارع المتنبي عام 1932 في عهد الملك فيصل الأول.

### *Al-Mutanabbi Street, as Important as Its Name*

*It's a fascinating street in Baghdad located between Tigris river and Saray Bazaar. It's full of an endless chain of libraries, where you find all books you need. It was named Al-Mutanabbi Street in 1932 during the reign of King Faisal I. The name refers to Al-Mutan abbi; a well-known Abbasid poet whose statue is located in this street. You can go there at any time. But, if you're looking for an interesting experience, you must visit Al-Mutanabbi Street on Friday in the morning where people, poets, writers and singers are there, or you'll meet them in Al-Shabander coffee shop in the same street. Don't miss this experience.*



