THE TYPES OF TEXTS ENCOUNTERED IN NAVAL ARCHITECTURE

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Abstract: In today's globalized world, where geographical and temporal distances are closing significantly, shipbuilding' needs go beyond national borders. Companies' opening up and exposure to global markets bring further translation needs within the shipbuilding field, thus making this area of specialization one of the highest in demand within the translation market with many work opportunities for translators. In this paper, the authors propose a classification of expertise within the fields of naval architecture and shipbuilding in order to provide students of translation and inexperienced translators with a catalogue that is representative of the main text types. This paper acts as a starting point, providing the translator with the terminology, phraseology and subject knowledge in this specialized area of translation.

Keywords: translation, specialized translation, naval architecture translation, shipbuilding translation, translator training, textual genres

Introduction

Texture is the property of a text to "hang together", both linguistically and conceptually. It is the defining characteristics of the text, which give it continuity of sense (**coherence**) and connectivity between its surface elements (**cohesion**). Texture occurs in various contexts. Contexts develop different **text-types**.

Texts are the basic units for semiotic analysis. All texts are joined forming the discourse which is classified in genres. The hierarchical relation between text, discourse and genre is represented by Hatim and Mason (1990):

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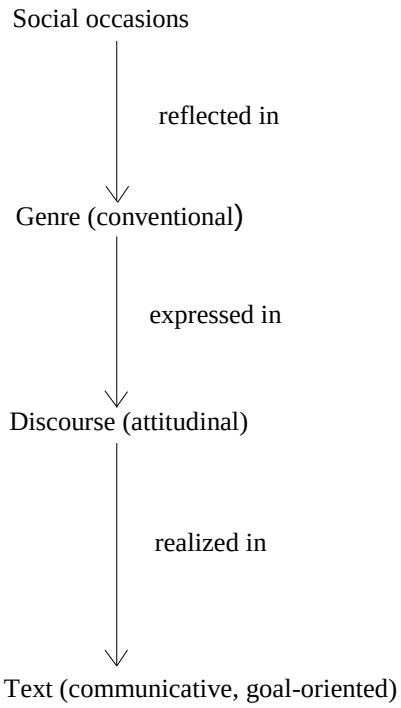


Figure 1. Hierarchial relationships between text, discourse and genre. (Source Hatim and Mason, 1990:74)

Figure 1 shows that the social occasions are the triggering factors that determine genres. Thus, meaning is related to a given culture and a particular situation which covers degrees of formality / official, formal, informal, colloquial), generality (neutral, technical etc.), objectivity (factual, etc.).

Newmark (1991:32) observed four factors that influence a translation semantically. These factors are:

a) the conventional, grammatical and lexical usage for the type of text, depending on the topic and the situation;
b) the expectations of the putative readership bearing in mind their estimated knowledge of the topic and the style of language they use;
c) what is being described or reported, ascertained or verified (the referential truth);
d) the views of the translator, which may be personal and subjective, or social and cultural, involving the translator's "group loyalty factor", which may reflect the national, political, social class, etc. of the translator.

A unified entity, i.e. the text, the functions under social conventions which determine its genre. The text serves rhetorical purposes in various contexts. For instance, a technical

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specification is the basis for a purchase order. The purchase order is the text that creates drawings. Texts in the naval architecture field concatenate and cannot exist independently. Every text serves its purpose in a particular context for different technical disciplines. Strategies, expectations and knowledge co-occur in a text to serve its rhetorical purpose.

In order to avoid future confusions, the text has to be differentiated from a sentence. In this sense, De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981:11-15) presents **text** versus **sentence definitions** as in the table below:

Text	Sentence
actual system	virtual system
textuality	syntax
overriden	elipsis
acceptable or **non-acceptable** according to a complex **gradation**	matching it against the sequences which can be produced by grammatical rules
progression between **states**	
units to which **social conventions, psychological factors, presupposition**	

Table 1. Text versus sentence definitions (De Beaugrande and Dressler: 1981)

In using texts, readers should have **experiential knowledge** of specific, actual occurrences, this being a condition of intertextuality, whereas in using sentences, language users rely on grammatical knowledge as a general, virtual system.

The analysis of a naval architecture text differs in a certain degree from that of a literary one or even from another scientific text. Croitoru (1996) suggested the diagram below as a model of Translation Oriented Text Analysis (TOTA) for ESP texts that can apply to naval architecture texts.

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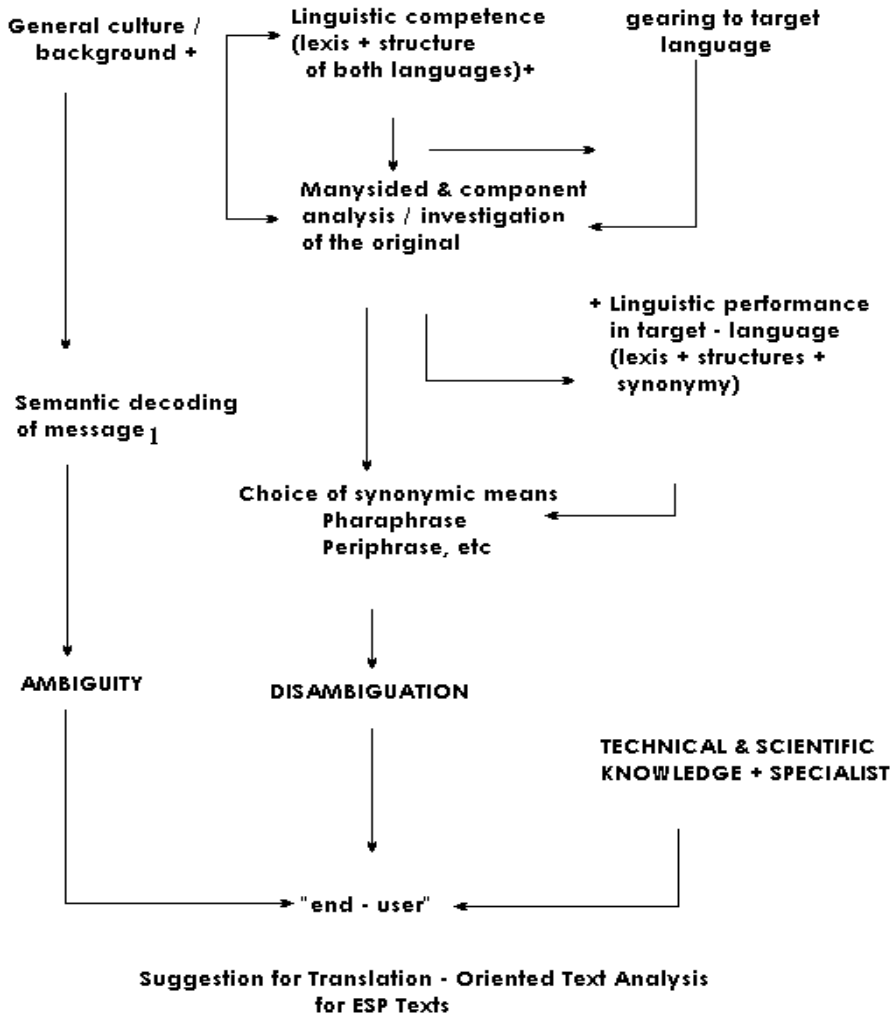


Figure 2. Croitoru, Interpetation and Translation (1996:123)

Types of Texts

Scientific-technical texts are oriented not only for this group language speakers, but for the representatives of a certain professional group with certain extra linguistic knowledge. The purpose of science as a branch of human activity is to disclose by research the inner substance of things and phenomena of objective reality and find out the laws regulating them, thus enabling man to predict, control and direct their future development in order to improve the material and social life of mankind.

The shipbuilding industry involves many countries and departments, with international characters, and English for specific purposes, i.e. the naval architecture discourse in this case, is the work language in the shipbuilding industry, so the employees must master corresponding language ability. The shipbuilding texts can be classified according to their content into:

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- Plans and procedures (Project Management Documents)
- Exhibits (Contractual Documents)
- Technical documents

Technical documents can be further subdivided according to the technical discipline they belong to. In building a ship a technical document belongs to one of the following disciplines: **Technical Safety, Structure, Structural Analysis, Naval Architecture, Architecture, Electrical, Telecom, ICSS (Instrumentation), Material and Corrosion, Hull Outfitting, HVAC, Marine Systems, Mechanical, Piping.**

The term document is used frequently in the shipbuilding industry and it is defined by ISO (2000) as *"information (important data, e.g. record, specification, procedure document, drawing, report or standard) together with its supporting medium. The supporting medium for QMS documentation can be: paper, magnetic, electronic or optical computer disc, photography, master sample or a combination thereof."*

Our initial plan was to add our first classification of text types and other information likely to be of interest to users to the aforementioned platform. Inevitably, the number of subject areas included in the initial classification was expanded to cover macroeconomics, finance, business, banking and accountancy, and the number of texts within each of these areas was also increased. Shipbuilding and naval architecture rely is an industry and as such rely on bussines documents. Indeed, with the exception of purely techinical texts, a large number of shipbuilding texts could be described as hybrid, given the diversity of terms and concepts that cannot be assigned exclusively to one textual category or subject area. In addition, the natural curiosity of humans to expand and improve their knowledge turns any taxonomy into a model with shortcomings that will eventually become invalid, such as for example the world of shipbuilding, where investment products are continuously updated. On the other hand, the large number of text types generated by this professional field makes it totally impractical for us to cover them all and forces us to classify only the most representative texts from the professional sphere.

In the shipbuilding industry, most businesses are large, and for the parties who never met, an inadequate query would make the parts (customer and service provider) doubt the professional abilities of others. It is hard to imagine who would negotiate with the person who could not write well.. Besides, ships are meant to carry people and goods all over the world and require an immense sum of money to be built, maintained and converted. Any error costs

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money and lives. As an important written communication tool, the technical query occupies a very important status in the shipbuilding industry.

It is important to note here that our classification is not based on linguistic or discursive criteria; rather it is based on a division of encyclopaedic knowledge by subject sub-area within this area of expertise. This paper moves away from other studies that offer a theoretical approach to genre, register and meta-speech in applied linguistics.

In the next section, we outline our proposal for the classification of shipbuilding and naval architecture texts. Given the brevity of this paper and the large number of text types covered in this piece of work, it is not possible to include a definition of the texts.

Naval architecture texts

Naval architecture also known as naval engineering, is an engineering discipline dealing with the engineering design process, shipbuilding, maintenance, and operation of marine vessels and structures. [1]

Naval architecture has its own "language", i.e. the language of science which demands the scientist to confirm a hypothesis, to develop unused concepts, to reveal internal acts of being, develop¬ment, associations among various phenomena, etc. The language tools used, therefore, have the tendency to be objective, explicit, restricted, and emotionless, devoid of any identity.

The study of naval architecture can be broken down into two aspects:

- textbooks and courses studied at the university providing the basic knowledge for any future naval archtiect
- specific technical documents such as: *Limit Curves for Unprotected and Weathertight Openings Arrangement, Vent Lines and Unprotected Openings Arrangement, FSO Loading and Stability Design Philosophy, FSO General Specification, FSO Conversion Specification.*

Shipbuilding texts

Shipbuilding is the construction of ships and other floating vessels. It normally takes place in a specialized facility known as a shipyard. Shipbuilders, also called shipwrights, follow a specialized occupation that traces its roots to before recorded history.[2]

The shipbuilding texts can be classified according to their content into:

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_architecture

2 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shipbuilding

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- Plans and procedures (Project Management Documents) such as: *Document Control Procedure, Document Approval Procedure, Project Management Plan, Project Execution Plan.*
- Exhibits (Contractual Documents)
- Technical documents. The technical documents are divided according to a specific discipline, as mentioned above. Some examples of technical documents are: *HVAC System Specification, HVAC Specification for Turret Area, HVAC Equipment Datasheets and Specifications, Marine and Process Valves Specifications.*

Corporate texts

In the corporate world, there are a large number of texts that straddle various areas of specialization and therefore many of the texts generated in this field can also be assigned to other text categories. Although it is practically impossible to draw up a taxonomy of business texts, due to the high volume of texts translated in the corporate world, below is a non-exhaustive classification of business type of text encountered in the shipbuilding industry.

- Texts with information on the company's operations and management:
- Regulations governing the running of different corporate bodies: annual general meetings of shareholders (AGMs), board of directors, audit and compliance committee, appointments and retributions committee, etc.
- Calls to meeting and agendas for the AGMs and board of directors' meetings
- Internal codes of conduct
- Letters from the chairman or managing director to shareholders or employees
- Directors' report
- Annual corporate governance report
- Corporate responsibility reports
- Reports by the appointment and retributions committee
- Management reports
- Relevant events reported to the Spanish Securities and Exchange Commission (CNMV)
- Documents containing financial information relating to the company:
- Annual reports
- Documentation containing the company's stock information
- Take-over bids, public share offerings, rights offerings, etc.

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- Credit ratings
- Financial highlights
- Contracts/Agreements. We have grouped contracts and agreements under one category given that they share characteristics such as structure, syntax, terminology and phraseology. Contracts that are generated in the corporate world constitute one of the most frequent assignments in the professional practice of translation. In this type of text, specialized, legal language coexists, and is inextricably entwined, with financial and commercial language. It is impossible to include here all the types of contract that require translation in the business field, so the list below should be taken as an illustrative example, given that only the most common contracts in the professional field have been included.
- Company agreements; in the corporate world, these contracts are for commercial companies.
- Purchase and sale agreement for shares
- Share subscription agreements
- Shareholders' agreements
- Confidentiality agreements
- Merger and acquisition agreements
- Temporary business association agreements
- Joint venture agreements
- Sale and purchase agreements for business premises
- Stock option agreements
- Ordinary employment contracts and senior management contracts
- Insurance contracts
- Supply, agency and distribution contracts
- Financial and business partnership agreements: lease and factoring agreements
- Franchise agreements
- Foreign trade agreements: agreements for the international sale and purchase of goods, international land transport agreements, maritime transport agreements (charter-parties and contracts for the use of a ship, etc.)
- Texts about the company's operations:
- Estimates, purchase orders, invoices, delivery notes and credit notes
- Trade bills (bills of exchange, checks and promissory notes)

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- Texts relating to the area of international maritime transport: charter-parties, bills of lading
- Documents in the area of foreign trade: payment orders, letters of credits, certificates of origin, airway bills, export credit insurance contracts, etc.
- Texts about business development:
- Business plans
- Feasibility plans
- Documents related to project finance
- MTP (mid-term plans).
- Texts that stem from consultancy and advisory services: audit reports (not accounting), legal advice reports about financial and tax-related issues.

Banking texts

Banking, seen as a financial institution system, can be divided into retail banking and investment banking.

Retail banking texts. Within this category we can classify texts as follows:

- Bank contracts:
- Financing and refinancing agreements
- Loan and mortgage agreements
- Credit facility agreements, credit transfer agreements
- Current account, credit card, bank transfer and payment services agreements
- Bank deposit agreements
- Guarantee and pledge agreements
- Custodian agreements
- Financial lease, operating lease and factoring agreements
- Investment portfolio management agreements: investment funds and pension plans
- Other bank documents:
- Bills of exchange, checks and promissory notes
- Credit facilities
- Syndicated loans
- Letters of credit
- Bank receipts
- Payment or wire transfers
- Bank guarantees

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- Project finance documents

Investment banking texts. This section includes texts generated in the framework of the following business operations, where banks act as intermediaries:

- Take-over bids
- Public share offerings
- Rights offerings
- IPO (initial public offering)
- MBO (management buy-outs)
- M&A (mergers and acquisitions)
- Bond issues to obtain funding for companies
- Placement of shares

Accounting texts

Accounting can be defined as a standardized cluster of procedures across firms, which allow their daily financial activity to be clearly structured. Accounting texts often need to be professionally translated, as companies are required by law to publish the majority of these texts. It is therefore an area full of professional opportunities for a translator. Although accounting texts are undoubtedly prepared from within a company, we can extract certain characteristics that are unique to this type of text and that enable us to categorize them, such as the limited leeway a thorough translator has, who is expected to make use of the terminology regulated by a number of international and national accounting standards.

The key accounting texts, most of which are contained in the document titled Annual Report, include:

- External audit reports
- Annual accounts or financial statements. These include:
- Balance sheet or statement of financial position
- Profit and loss account or income statement
- Cash flow statement
- Statement of changes in equity
- Notes to financial statements and statement of source and application of funds
- Management reports
- Directors' reports
- Audit committee reports

Conclusions

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With the development of the shipbuilding industry which uses the naval architecture discourse, the technical query has been the important tool for the shipbuilding enterprises to associate with foreign shipbuilding enterprises and develop the shipbuilding business and other business activities, therefore, the parts involved in the industry should be aware of all the texts enountered in the naval architecture and shipbuilding industry. A translator should know them and be aware of their requirements in order to be as professional as possible.

Corpus

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***Icepronav, Martin Linge Project, Galati, 2015

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