

2.2.1. The Direct Approach

Another classification of MT is by the approach or strategy the system adopts. There are generally three basic approaches in MT: the first approach is the “direct approach” which is dedicated to one particular pair of languages. As its name suggests, the translation is direct from the ST text into the TT. Little analysis is carried out on such systems. To Tucker (1978), the direct translation strategy passes each sentence of the text to be translated through a series of principal stages in which the output of each stage is the input to the next. These strategies draw heavily on well developed dictionaries, morphological analysis, and text processing software. Linguistic theories and parsing principles are of little importance due to the fact that surface structures are dealt with using this method while deep structure analysis is abandoned. An example of direct approach is the Georgetown system.

2.2.2. The Interlingual Approach

The second approach is the interlingual approach. Unlike the direct approach, the interlingual approach goes through two phases of translation. The first is from SL into interlingua (IL) and from IL into TL. Mel’chuck (quoted in James 1980), in a discussion of translation theory, defines interlingua as “a system which encompasses, as is desirable for translation, the analysis characteristic of the SL and the synthesis characteristic of the TL text”. The SL analysis is SL-oriented and it is not related to the TL by any means. In addition, programs designed for TL synthesis are TL oriented and have nothing to do with the structure of the SL. One distinctive feature of such systems is economy of effort in construction compared with the direct approach systems. Tucker (1978: 25) states that:

a genuine interlingua must be able to express the meaning of the text to be translated. This type of research can proceed despite the debate as to whether it is possible to capture and formalize the human encyclopedic knowledge that is a necessary part of language understanding. This is because one can work with