Trans-Cultural Translation and Risk Management

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Abstract: This research investigates the intricacies of trans-cultural translation and risk management within the Nigerian linguistic and cultural landscape. The research outlines the multifaceted risks in translation processes, ranging from linguistic accuracy to cultural appropriateness, and proposes strategies for their mitigation with a focus on the diverse languages and cultural influences present in Nigeria. The research highlights the critical role of translators' understanding and conveying cultural nuances, emphasising the necessity for comprehensive training in cultural awareness, ethical considerations, and risk management strategies. This study provides valuable insights into achieving effective communication across cultural gaps, through examining various types of translation risks including uncertainty, credibility, communication, and mitigation, and discussing effective risk management practices such as the use of CAT tools, revision systems, and pre-translation planning. Additionally, the research acknowledges the importance of technology and translator decision-making in ameliorating translation risks, while highlighting the often-overlooked aspect of cultural awareness. This research contributes significantly to the field of trans-cultural translation studies by exploring the specific challenges and opportunities in the Nigerian context, such as translation precision, aesthetic considerations, and the logistical concerns of payment and ongoing skill enhancement. The research offers recommendations for translators and outlines areas for further research within the Nigerian and broader linguistic contexts.

Keywords: trans-cultural; risk management; translation studies; equivalence; interpretation

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1. Introduction

Within the Nigerian context, trans-cultural translation presents a unique challenge due to the nation's rich tapestry of over 250 ethnicities and languages. This necessitates a nuanced approach that goes beyond mere linguistic proficiency to navigate the complexities of cultural contexts. The fundamental goal of translation is to convey the intended message from the source text to the target audience without altering its meaning or essence. However, achieving true equivalence and/or correspondence in trans-cultural translation becomes intricate when dealing with diverse cultural backgrounds like in Nigeria.

Direct translation between Nigerian languages can be insufficient. This is because of nuances, proverbs, and humor often rely heavily on the specific cultural context within each ethnicity. Facial expressions, gestures, and body language vary significantly across Nigerian cultures. Misinterpretations in these areas can lead to misunderstandings and offense as religious beliefs and social norms differ greatly across the country. Translators must be aware of potential taboos and sensitive topics to avoid causing unintended harm. To mitigate the inherent risks associated with trans-cultural translation in Nigeria, a robust risk management approach is crucial. This involves risk Management strategies for accurate translation:

- Target audience identification by clearly defining the intended audience for the translated material is paramount. Tailoring the language and cultural references to their specific background minimises the risk of miscommunication.
- Dual expertise in utilising translators with not only linguistic proficiency but also a deep understanding of the cultural context of both source and target languages is essential.
- Sensitivity training through equipping translators with cultural sensitivity training helps them identify potential pitfalls and navigate the complexities of diverse cultural nuances.
- Collaboration and back-translation by working with native speakers of the target language for feedback and back-translation helps ensure accuracy and cultural appropriateness.

Addressing the issue of untrained translators, Nwanjoku et al. (2021: 50) aptly highlight the importance of trained translators, emphasising the complexities involved in achieving equivalence and/or correspondence due to the cultural dimension inherent in different languages. Untrained individuals often underestimate the challenges involved, assuming a simplistic approach that disregards the diverse approaches, processes, procedures, and ethical considerations crucial for successful translation.

Moreso, equivalence in translation, as (ibid. 51) further explain, refers to establishing a term or text in the target language that conveys the same meaning as its source language counterpart. This necessitates a nuanced understanding of both languages and their cultural contexts to ensure that the translated text retains the intended message and impact on the target audience. Trans-cultural translation in Nigeria can be a powerful tool for communication, collaboration, and knowledge exchange while ensuring accurate and culturally appropriate representation of the

source text by acknowledging the multifaceted nature of cultural nuances and implementing effective risk management strategies.

Nigeria's complex linguistic and cultural landscape, characterised by over 250 indigenous languages alongside English and French, presents unique challenges for trans-cultural translation. While French was adopted as a second official language in 1996 to promote cultural unity, the primary languages spoken by Nigerians remain their native languages and English with approximately 10% of speakers. Additionally, the three major indigenous languages: Hausa, Yoruba, and Igbo – play a significant role in national development and have been extensively utilised in translation endeavors.

However, the sheer diversity of languages and their dialects within Nigeria introduces inherent translation difficulties, particularly regarding trans-translation across various cultures. This necessitates careful consideration of the risks involved, including:

- The transfer of text from one language to another inherently carries the risk of miscommunication due to cultural nuances and linguistic complexities,
- Inaccurate translation can significantly alter the intended message, potentially leading to misunderstandings or unintended consequences. This emphasises the importance of prioritising the preservation of the source text's meaning during translation, and
- Insufficient attention to the various stages of the translation process, including decisions regarding what to translate and what to adapt, can further increase the risk of inaccuracies.

Therefore, effective risk management strategies are crucial for ensuring accurate and culturally appropriate translation within Nigeria's context. This includes:

- Proactive identification of potential issues before they arise allows for the implementation of preventative measures,
- Classifying risks into various categories, such as strategic, financial, compliance, and operational risks, facilitates targeted mitigation strategies, and
- Expanding the risk management framework to encompass factors beyond the standard categories, such as people, facility, process, and technology risks, provides a more comprehensive approach.

Zaki et al. (2024: 9) rightly highlight the importance of translation in bridging communication gaps and achieving accuracy and equivalence in message transfer. This study further emphasises the need to identify and manage the inherent risks involved in translation through targeted training and risk mitigation strategies. Trans-cultural translation in Nigeria can be a powerful tool for fostering communication, collaboration, and knowledge exchange while ensuring the integrity and cultural appropriateness of the translated message, acknowledging the multifaceted nature of linguistic diversity, and implementing robust risk management practices.

Within the field of communication, risk refers to the possibility of failure, with such failure jeopardising the entire communication process. In translation, this translates to the potential for inaccurate or misleading information transfer, ultimately falling short of the success expectations placed on translators. While risk management is a well-established concept in various domains like politics and business, its full application

within Translation Studies remains under development. Hui (2013: 36) emphasises the need for a comprehensive risk management approach in translation, encompassing not only the actions of translators but also the broader range of issues faced by language professionals and clients. Communication risk arises when the meaning conveyed in the translated text falls short of the original message. As Hopkin (2017: 2) aptly states, "evaluating the range of risk responses available and deciding the most appropriate one in each case is at the heart of risk management". One key challenge in translation risk management lies in the absence of definitive rules or guidelines governing the process. Sedano (2020: 6) further highlights that translation risk extends beyond the initial client-translator selection and the text itself, encompassing the inherent uncertainties within the translation process.

This study aims to elucidate the intricate links between risk and translation. Some key areas of focus through balancing the pursuit of literal accuracy (precision) with the preservation of the overall aesthetic quality of the translated text present a significant translation risk. The potential for omitting crucial phrases or segments during translation poses a substantial risk to the accuracy and completeness of the message. The awkward reality of financial considerations for translators can also be a source of translation risk. The risk of losing language proficiency over time underscores the need for continuous learning and engagement with the languages involved. Additionally, inadequate cultural awareness can lead to significant misinterpretations and communication breakdowns.

This research tends to contribute to the development of robust risk management strategies by acknowledging the multifaceted nature of translation risk and advocating for its comprehensive integration within Translation Studies. This, in turn, will enable translators to navigate the inherent complexities of the field and deliver accurate, culturally appropriate translations that effectively bridge communication gaps (Sajo et al. 2023: 75). Within the field of translation, the concept of risk carries a specific weight. According to (Akbari 2021: 13), risk is an event with an uncertain outcome, potentially leading to either positive or negative consequences. This uncertainty surrounding the translation process, where the "actual outcome may deviate from the expected outcome" (ibid. 19), necessitates a critical approach to risk management.

Interpretations, as Akbari further notes, can be subject to both positive and negative evaluations. However, both definitions of risk and desired outcomes emphasise the inherent uncertainty in translation, where potential 'bad results' can arise. Stern (1996: 11) highlights the importance of choosing appropriate risk analysis measures, particularly when comparing different risks. He emphasises that a fundamental understanding of the underlying risk processes is crucial, as quantitative estimates alone can lead to obfuscation.

Several scholars have recognised the growing significance of risk management in translation. Matsushita (2014) applies Pym's concept of "Risk Management" to analyse new translation strategies. He argues that this framework can be valuable in understanding the decision-making processes behind specific strategies, such as omission in news translation. Pym (2015) himself delves deeper into the various types of risks inherent in translation. These include:

- Credibility Risk refers to the potential for the translator to lose trust and credibility due to inaccuracies or misinterpretations.
- Uncertainty Risk encompasses the inherent uncertainty in decision-making during the translation process, where choices can lead to unintended consequences.
- Communicative Risk arises when the translation fails to fulfill its intended communicative function, potentially leading to misunderstandings or miscommunication.

Pym further emphasises that some elements within a translation carry higher risks than others, as they are crucial for successful communication. However, these levels of risk analysis are not always clear-cut, and their interactions offer a nuanced perspective on translation as a social activity, a product, and a model for decision-making. Akbari (2016) confirms the increasing adoption of risk management practices within translation companies. His research identifies common industry risks and the methods companies employ to mitigate them. This highlights the growing recognition of translation as a purposeful activity requiring constant decision-making and risk-management strategies.

The concept of risk management has gained significant traction in Translation Studies. As research by Pym and Matsushita demonstrates, it offers a valuable framework for analysing translation strategies and decision-making processes. Practitioners can minimise potential pitfalls and ensure the accuracy, effectiveness, and cultural appropriateness of their work by actively implementing risk management strategies within the translation process.

2. Literature Review: Translation Studies in Nigeria

Translation Studies in Nigeria presents a unique and dynamic field shaped by the nation's rich linguistic tapestry and historical context. This overview highlights several key areas of focus on literary translingualism. Scholars like Toyin (2022) have explored the concept of literary translingualism, emphasising the necessity of linguistic diversity in Nigerian literature. Works by prominent authors like Soyinka, Achebe, and Adichie exemplify this approach, showcasing the ethical translation of postcolonial narratives.

Studies by (Acheoah et al. 2019) delve into the relationship between French and Nigerian languages in literary translation, highlighting how French serves as a tool for cultural exchange and collaboration between the two nations. Translation Studies in Nigeria is intricately linked with history and nationalism. Research explores how translation shapes national consciousness, from precolonial traditions to postcolonial anti-imperialist discourse, reflecting diverse cultural sensibilities. The field encompasses various domains beyond literary translation, biomedical translation plays a crucial role in sharing medical research internationally (Teibowei 2022). The study of French translation in Nigerian universities, with its emphasis on Translation Quality Assessment (TQA), empowers youth and contributes to national development (ibid.). The proposal to translate school subjects into Nigerian Pidgin and utilise it as a

medium of instruction aims to enhance national cohesion and develop human resources proficient in the language.

The emergence of the Nigerian Association of Translators and Interpreters (NATI) in 1978, currently the Nigerian Institute of Translators and Interpreters (NITI) marked a significant development in the field. This organisation played a pivotal role in raising awareness among language educators and fostering the growth of Translation Studies within Nigerian universities. This demonstrates that the field of Translation Studies in Nigeria is multifaceted and dynamic, encompassing diverse areas of research and practice. It actively engages with the nation's linguistic diversity, historical context, and evolving cultural landscape, contributing significantly to knowledge sharing, national development, and the preservation of cultural identity.

Translation Studies has witnessed significant growth within Nigerian universities throughout the 21st century. This discipline has nurtured renowned writers in the French language and boasts numerous professors who have made substantial contributions to the field within the Nigerian context. As Iloh (2019: 161) notes, "translation studies in most departments of French, Foreign or Modern European languages have figured in both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes". However, examining the trajectory of Translation Studies in Nigeria necessitates acknowledging the constraints and challenges encountered.

Despite the presence of postgraduate programmes in Translation Studies within many departments, a critical challenge lies in the lack of qualified faculty to adequately handle the demands of the discipline. This shortage of qualified instructors can hinder the quality and depth of instruction offered. While Translation Studies has undoubtedly flourished in Nigerian universities, addressing the issue of faculty shortage is crucial for its continued advancement and the training of future generations of skilled translators.

3. The Interplay of Trans-Cultural Translation and Risk Management

Trans-cultural translation is crucial for effective risk management within various sectors in Nigeria, especially the banking industry. Studies by Pere (2017) explore how cultural factors like religion and social class influence risk perceptions of Nigerian parents sending their children abroad, such as concerns about cultural assimilation or religious freedom. This highlights the importance of understanding cultural nuances when assessing risk. Similarly, research by Alphonsus (2016) on non-performing loans, like defaults on small business loans, underscores the link between risk management measures and the sustainability of financial institutions. Furthermore, studies on the United Bank for Africa (UBA) demonstrate the benefits of tailoring risk management practices to Nigeria's specific cultural context, with a strong risk culture enhancing their ability to manage risk. This emphasises the crucial role of understanding and incorporating trans-cultural nuances within risk management frameworks to achieve successful mitigation and ensure sustainable operations in Nigeria's diverse socio-cultural landscape. Various sectors in Nigeria can achieve greater success in mitigating

risks and fostering sustainable growth by prioritising trans-cultural translation in risk management strategies.

The concept of "Trans-Cultural Translation" extends beyond the mere transfer of words from one language to another. As Robinson (2001: 193) notes, the increasingly complex translation marketplace necessitates robust risk management strategies. The modern world, with its rapid globalisation, has introduced new and complex risks, particularly with the increased reliance on digital technology. Zaki et al., (2024: 32) highlight the potential for uncertainty in translation when the original written text is solely replaced by its translated counterpart in the target language. Robinson (2001: 28) further emphasises the subjective nature of translation, where even the most skilled translators can be influenced by the "text situation" beyond their initial expectations. This dynamic nature underscores the constant evolution of risk management within translation. Löescher (1991: 8) defines translation procedures and strategies as "conscious procedures adopted by translators to deal with the different types of problems they encounter while rendering the text or part of it from one language into another". As Hopkin (2017: 8) suggests, managing risk in today's environment requires a dynamic approach, utilising various tools and techniques while adapting governance structures to ensure successful implementation.

This research highlights the importance of integrating cultural sensitivity into risk management strategies, by acknowledging the intricate relationship between trans-cultural translation and risk management within the Nigerian context. It is crucial to mitigate potential misinterpretations and communication breakdowns. The dynamic nature of the globalised world necessitates continuous adaptation of risk management practices to address emerging challenges like the increased use of digital technology in translation. A qualified workforce of translators equipped to navigate the complexities of trans-cultural communication is essential for effective risk management. Trans-cultural translation plays a critical role in various sectors within Nigeria, and its success is intricately linked to effective risk management strategies that account for the nation's diverse socio-cultural landscape and the evolving nature of risk in the globalised world.

Risk management plays a crucial role in various domains, including the translation process. Stern (1996: 33) defines it as the process of identifying and evaluating alternative regulatory options, ultimately selecting the most suitable one. This involves considering broad social, economic, ethical, and political factors while utilising the results of risk assessments and a comprehensive understanding of the broader context. Zaki et al. (2024: 34) highlight the inherent challenges within translation, emphasising the complexities faced by both the translator and the translation process itself. These challenges include:

- Translators require expertise in the source and target languages, including their grammar, vocabulary, and cultural nuances.
- Accurately conveying the intended meaning of the source text in the target language is a constant struggle for translators,
- Finding natural equivalents for certain lexical items across languages can be particularly challenging. And,

- Lack of familiarity with the cultural context of both languages can lead to significant misinterpretations.

Nwanjoku (2021: 33) further emphasises the critical role of accurate language in ensuring clear communication and avoiding negative consequences. This resonates with the translation risk of understanding the intended meaning and conveying it effectively in the target language. Nida (2001: 37) adds that perfect equivalence between languages is often unattainable due to inherent differences in meaning and sentence structure. This necessitates a nuanced approach to translation, acknowledging the inherent risk of potential inaccuracies due to the lack of absolute correspondence between languages. Beyond the realm of translation, Hopkin (2017: 25) defines risk management in business as encompassing issues like health and safety, fire prevention, and product liability.

Risk management in translation is a multifaceted process that involves identifying, assessing, and analysing various risks inherent to the translation process. These risks encompass challenges related to translator competence, achieving accurate meaning, identifying natural equivalence, cultural awareness, and the inherent limitations of achieving perfect equivalence between languages. Translators can strive to deliver accurate, culturally appropriate translations that minimise potential negative consequences by acknowledging these complexities and implementing effective risk management strategies.

4. Methodology

This study explores the various risks inherent in the translation process, such as inaccuracies, cultural misunderstandings, and potential biases. This research investigates how translators manage risks associated with translation, employing an interpretative approach and analytical theory of translation as frameworks.

5. Risk Management and Decision-Making in Translation

Pym's definition of translation risk emphasises the potential failure to achieve the intended purpose of the translation. This approach highlights the importance of identifying elements within the translation process that carry high or low risk, allowing for strategic risk distribution. As Sedano (2020: 6) further emphasises that translation risk extends beyond the initial client-translator interaction, permeating the entire translation process itself. This part delves into several translation risks identified by Pym and others, beyond the core risk of failing to meet the translation's purpose:

5.1. Precision versus Aesthetics

One central risk lies in the inherent tension between precision and aesthetics. Pym (2020: 11) argues that prioritising precision often compromises the aesthetic experience of the translated text, while focusing solely on aesthetics may lead to

significant deviations from the original. This creates a delicate balancing act: excessive precision can render the text clumsy and unreadable, while overemphasising aesthetics may result in a translation that strays too far from the source material. The specific context, such as literary translations demanding aesthetic considerations, influences the appropriate balance between these two aspects.

5.2. Lost Phrases

Another significant risk involves the omission of phrases or sections during the translation process. This can occur due to time constraints leading to translation overload, resulting in a substandard final product. Mitigating this risk requires implementing strategies like segmented translation using Computer-Assisted Translation (CAT) tools or establishing a thorough revision/proofreading system.

5.3. Payment Risk

Translators often face the risk of delayed or withheld payment, with clients holding back payment until final revisions are complete or exceeding payment deadlines. To minimise this risk, establishing a clear payment timeline upfront, potentially with a 50% down payment structure, is crucial.

5.4. Maintaining Language Skills

Translators face the constant risk of language skill deterioration. Mitigating this risk involves continuous efforts such as:
- Regular reading, writing, and conversation in the relevant languages are essential for maintaining language proficiency,
- Translators working in specialised fields should actively seek knowledge within those domains to enhance their subject matter expertise alongside language skills,
- A lack of cultural and transcultural awareness can lead to subtle translation errors. Translators should strive to improve their cultural sensitivity to minimise such risks.

Pym's framework provides a valuable lens for understanding and managing various translation risks.

Translators can strive to deliver accurate, culturally appropriate translations that fulfill their intended purpose and minimise potential negative consequences, by identifying high-risk elements and implementing appropriate strategies. Translation inherently involves a complex decision-making process. Obdržálková (2016: 307) highlights this aspect, defining translation as "a communication process in terms of its goal and a decision process in terms of the translator's working situation." This decision-making process often involves choosing between multiple possible scenarios and requires careful effort allocation. Zaki et al., (2024: 20) further emphasise the role of creativity in this process, stating that translators utilise creativity "to transform messages into cross-cultural communication situations and solve problems by searching for correspondence and/or equivalence and the use of the right words".

Pym (2015: 13) offers a valuable framework for understanding risk management in translation. He suggests that "one always works hard when there is high risk and works less when there is low risk". He categorises problems as high-risk or low-risk, and solutions as well, viewing risk management as a lens for analysing translation strategies. Essentially, different translation strategies represent varying levels of effort expended to manage risk, and the translator's effort should ideally correlate with the perceived level of risk associated with each decision. Shojaee et al., (2021: 5) define risk-taking as "an ability to be enthusiastic to try out new information wisely and intelligently not considering embarrassment". This characteristic plays a crucial role in translation training, as students actively seek out and experiment with various strategies to hone their skills. It is a vital part of the learning process, distinct from simply expecting success or failure.

The focus in translation should not solely be on achieving perfect outcomes, but rather on the willingness to experiment and adapt strategies. This aligns with the principle of "equivalent effect" emphasised by Nida, Venuti, Pym, and Nwanjoku et al., which acknowledges the challenges of finding perfect cross-cultural and linguistic equivalence. The goal becomes achieving a level of correspondence that effectively conveys the intended meaning within the target cultural context.

Furthermore, Hopkin (2017: 31) highlights that successful risk management in translation involves "ensuring that strategic decisions that appear to be high risk are taken with all of the information available". This emphasises the importance of comprehensive analysis and informed decision-making to minimise potential risks at all stages of the translation process. Translation is a decision-driven process where risk management plays a critical role., translators can strategically allocate effort, cultivate a risk-taking approach, and utilise various translation strategies to achieve the desired level of equivalence and minimise the potential for negative consequences, by acknowledging the inherent risks involved.

Pym (2015: 123) identifies three key types of risk inherent to the translation process:

1. **Uncertainty Risk** arises from the inherent uncertainty in translation decisions. Kunzli associates uncertainty with situations where translators make educated guesses due to a limited understanding of the source text. He further suggests that collaborating with the client throughout the process can help mitigate this risk.

2. **Credibility Risk** is crucial in translation, as it directly impacts the trust and confidence of those involved. A translator's expertise in the source language and knowledge of the subject matter can significantly reduce credibility risk.

3. **Communicative Risk is a r**isk management that extends beyond simply avoiding negative consequences. It involves maximising communication effectiveness. This means that the effort invested in translating a specific text segment should be proportionate to the potential communicative risk involved. For instance, if a specific section requires minimal effort for clear communication, involving a mediator might be unnecessary. The unequal distribution of communicative risk across different texts and situations highlights the need for strategic effort allocation based on the perceived risk level, while also considering uncertainty and maintaining credibility.

Beyond the three core risks, Pym et al. (2018: 1) introduce the concept of risk mitigation. This refers to situations where a translator deliberately accepts one type of risk to potentially mitigate another. They explain that "risk mitigation" involves "accepting one kind of risk while attempting to protect against the possible negative consequences of that risk by incurring a second risk" (ibid., 2). However, this approach often presents challenges and may not always be a feasible option for translators. Pym's framework provides a valuable lens for understanding and managing various risks inherent in translation. Translators can make informed decisions, allocate effort strategically, and strive to achieve effective communication while minimising potential negative consequences by acknowledging these distinct risk categories and the potential for mitigation strategies.

According to Zaki et al. (2024: 21) the inherent challenge of gap-filling in translation, highlights the translators' role as bridge-builders who must align the skills and knowledge of both languages to achieve a sense of equivalence. This 'equal value' in both languages becomes crucial, as all translations are inherently reoriented towards the target audience and context. Understanding the intended meaning and context of the source text is, therefore, paramount in effective risk management. Various types of risks can significantly impact a translation project. These types of risks include:

- Compliance Risk refers to the risk of failing to adhere to legal or regulatory requirements, potentially leading to legal repercussions.
- Hasard Risk encompasses unforeseen events or circumstances that can negatively impact the translation process, such as technical failures or natural disasters.
- Control Risk relates to the risk of internal inefficiencies or errors in the translation process, such as missed deadlines or inaccurate translations due to human error or inadequate quality control.
- Uncertainty Risk refers to the inherent uncertainty associated with translation decisions, especially when dealing with ambiguous or culturally specific elements in the source text.
- Opportunity Risk involves the potential to miss out on beneficial opportunities due to a conservative approach to risk management, such as losing a client due to excessive risk aversion.

Effective risk management in translation organisations plays a vital role in ensuring smooth operations and high-quality service delivery. As Hopkin (2017: 4) emphasises, risk management inputs are crucial not only for strategic decision-making but also for the successful execution of projects and the overall functioning of the organisation. This is achieved through acknowledging the various types of risks involved in translation and implementing appropriate risk management strategies, organisations can:

- Enhance the quality and accuracy of translations.
- Mitigate potential negative consequences, such as legal issues or reputational damage.
- Improve operational efficiency and productivity.
- Increase client satisfaction and trust.

Therefore, a robust risk management framework is essential for translation organisations to navigate the complexities of the translation process and achieve successful outcomes.

6. Translation Risk: Specific Instances and Risk Assessment

This part delves into specific instances of translation risk and the importance of risk assessment in mitigating them:

6.1 Certification Risk

Mistakes in translating official documents like birth certificates can have severe legal consequences, potentially leading to charges of forgery. This highlights the crucial role of translator certification and the risk associated with inaccurate translations in sensitive domains.

6.2 Rush Translation Risks

Translations made urgently considering the demand of the client, or urgent translation demands often carry inherent risks. As Sedano (2020: 3) points out, the pressure to deliver translations quickly can lead to; translators resorting to machine translation, which can introduce significant errors due to its limitations in accurately capturing nuances and context. Overworked translators are more prone to errors, and rushed translations often lack proper polishing, potentially resulting in omitted sections or phrases. To mitigate these risks, clients should:
- Plan translation projects to allow sufficient time for accurate and high-quality translation.
- Recognise the limitations of machine translation and prioritise human expertise for crucial projects.

6.3. Original Text Quality

The quality of the original text significantly impacts translation risk. Grammatical errors, overly long sentences, and poor structure can make the translation process more challenging and potentially lead to a subpar final product. Ideally, clients should provide clean and polished original texts to minimise translation difficulties. If necessary, professional proofreading or editing of the original text can be beneficial.

6.4. Localisation and Cultural Awareness

Localisation, the adaptation of a text to a specific audience, presents its own set of translation risks. Pym (2004) defines localisation as "the adaptation and translation of a text to suit a particular reception situation". This process goes beyond pure linguistic translation and requires deep cultural understanding.

- **Blind Translation** is failing to consider the target audience's cultural context can lead to a translation that misses the mark or even carries unintended connotations.
- **Airbrushing** is directly translating a text without cultural adaptation, often referred to as "airbrushing", which can result in a translation that lacks local context and fails to resonate with the target audience.

To mitigate these risks, it is crucial to involve translators with strong cultural awareness and knowledge of the target audience's specific context.

7. Risk Assessment and Analysis

Risk assessment plays a vital role in translation by providing a framework for identifying, analysing, and managing potential risks. As Aven (2012: 1649) states, it is a tool for "obtaining consensus on what are good concepts, principles, and methods" for risk management. Moschandreas et al. (2005: 169) further define risk analysis as "a systematic modus operandi explaining the steps and rationale of estimating, managing and communicating the risks with all the stakeholders". Also, risk assessment is a crucial aspect in various Nigerian contexts, as evidenced by research. Weng (2022) explores risk assessment techniques associated with naval ship operations in the Niger Delta. Madueke (2019) analyses how gender and class distinctions influence risk perception and decision-making processes within the context of migration deterrence in Nigeria. Similar to Weng's (2022) exploration of risk assessment in naval operations, and Madueke's (2019) analysis of risk perception in migration, translators can benefit from applying risk assessment principles to their work. Translators can develop strategies to mitigate them and ultimately deliver high-quality translations that ensure the translated message is accurate, culturally appropriate, and avoids unintentional offense by proactively identifying potential risks, such as inaccuracies, cultural misunderstandings, or bias.

This part delves deeper into the distinction between risk assessment and risk management, highlighting their importance in translation. Stern (1996: 33) emphasises the clear separation between risk assessment and risk management in the decision-making process. He defines risk assessment as "understanding the true nature of the risk", while risk management focuses on taking action based on that understanding. This understanding equips the translator with the knowledge and tools necessary to address potential risks effectively. However, Stern acknowledges that risk assessment is not entirely objective. He mentions that "choices about whether and to what extent to include worst-case assumptions" can be influenced by the purpose of the assessment, such as regulatory compliance versus project planning.

Implementing a robust risk management framework offers several benefits:
- Risk management fosters a more vigilant organisational culture, ensuring potential risks are identified and addressed proactively.
- organisations can improve their chances of achieving their objectives and goals by factoring risk into strategic planning,

- Risk management helps ensure consistent adherence to regulatory and internal compliance mandates.
- Standardised risk management processes and controls lead to smoother operations and increased efficiency.
- A focus on risk mitigation enhances safety and security for both employees and customers.
- Effective risk management can set an organisation apart from its competitors.

Despite the benefits, implementing risk management also presents challenges:

- Risk management programmes often require investments in software and specialised services, leading to initial financial outlays.
- Implementing robust governance structures necessitates additional time and resources from various business units.
- Reaching agreement on the severity of risks and appropriate mitigation strategies can be a complex and time-consuming process.
- Quantifying the benefits of risk management to executives can be difficult, especially without concrete data.

Pym utilises risk analysis to argue that translators do not solely strive for perfect equivalence in their work. Instead, they prioritise managing the risk of failing to achieve their core objectives. He further analyses how translators manage uncertainties regarding equivalence, particularly in challenging situations involving factors like style, terminology, syntax, comprehension, pragmatic aspects, cultural considerations, adherence to function, translation method, and the quality of the original text. Translators can make informed decisions, mitigate potential negative consequences, and ultimately deliver high-quality translations that fulfill their intended purpose by acknowledging the inherent risks involved in translation and employing effective risk assessment and management strategies.

8. Recommendations for Translators

From the research, some recommendations made for translators are:

- Implement a systematic approach to identifying, analysing, and mitigating potential risks in your translation projects. This will help translators make informed decisions and avoid costly mistakes,
- Familiarise oneself with the various types of risks inherent in translation, such as certification risks, rush translation risks, original text quality issues, and localisation challenges, and
- Employ risk assessment tools and techniques to gain a clear understanding of the potential risks involved in each project. This will guide your risk management strategies.

Considering some general best practices, translators need to:

- Continuously update your knowledge of both source and target languages. Read widely, immerse yourself in the latest trends and cultural nuances, and stay informed about advancements in translation technology,

- Develop strong research skills to effectively navigate complex terminology, cultural references, and background information specific to your projects,
- Cultivate a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures to ensure accurate and culturally appropriate translations. This includes recognition of subtle differences in tone, humor, and social norms,
- Always strive to deliver high-quality translations that are accurate, fluent, and stylistically appropriate for the target audience. Proofread meticulously and consider using translation memory tools to ensure consistency,
- Build relationships with other translators, join professional organisations, and seek mentorship from experienced individuals. Collaboration can enhance your skills and provide valuable insights,
- While machine translation continues to evolve, prioritise human expertise for crucial projects. However, stay informed about the potential benefits of using technology to assist your workflow,
- Discuss project expectations, deadlines, potential risks, and risk management strategies with your clients upfront. This fosters transparency and builds trust,
- Never stop learning and expanding your knowledge base. Attend workshops, and conferences, and pursue professional development opportunities to stay ahead of the curve, and
- Consider specialising in specific fields or industries to develop deeper subject matter knowledge and cater to niche markets.

Translators can effectively manage risks, deliver high-quality work, and thrive in the ever-evolving translation landscape.

9. Conclusion

This research offers critical insights into the challenges and strategies related to trans-cultural translation and risk management in the Nigerian context. Through a thorough examination of the inherent risks in translation work - ranging from cultural sensitivities and linguistic nuances to practical concerns such as managing timelines and ensuring payment. It draws attention to the essential role of precision, continuous learning, and ethical considerations in translation practice. The research underscores the need for a rigorous approach to risk assessment and analysis, emphasising the benefits of such practices in enhancing the quality, reliability, and effectiveness of translation services. Focusing on achieving core objectives rather than unattainable perfection, by integrating Pym's model, the study advocates for a pragmatic approach to risk management. The call for further research and the development of training programmes based on the findings highlight an ongoing commitment to improving the field of translation in Nigeria. Overall, this research contributes substantially to our understanding of the complexities involved in trans-cultural translation, providing valuable frameworks for managing the associated risks and improving intercultural communication in a multicultural nation like Nigeria.

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Conflict of Interests
The authors declare no ethical issues or conflicts of interest in this research.

Ethical Standards
The authors affirm this research did not involve human subjects.