Different Types of Translation

Lecture # 7. By Dr. Dmytro Tsolin

Categorization of different types of translation according to:

1. correlation between types of SL and TL
2. correlation between the translator and the author
3. segmentation of the text and the structural units
4. form of presentation of ST and TT (written or oral)
5. correlation between ST and TT
6. genre and style characteristics
7. fullness and mode of rendering of the text
8. the main pragmatic functions
9. originality / unoriginality of ST
10. type of adequacy

1. Correlation between types of SL and TL

Intralingual

Diachronic translation: from the old language into the modern language
Transposition: from one style / genre into another

Interlingual

Binary translation: from one natural language into another natural language
Intersemiotic translation: from the natural language into the artificial language
Transmutation: from one artificial language into another

Diachronic translation: Beowulf. Translated by Frances B. Grummere

Hwæt! Wé Gárdena in géardagum
þéodcyninga þrym gefrúnon•
hú ðá æþelingas ellen fremedon.
Oft Scyld Scéfing sceaþena þréatum
monegum maégþum meodosetla oftéah•
egsode Eorle syþþan aérest wearð
féasceaft funden hé þæs frófre gebád•
wéox under wolcnum•
weorðmyndum þáh
oð þæt him aéghwylc þára ymbsittendra
ofer hronráde hýran scolde,
gomban gyldan• þæt wæs gód cyning.

LO, praise of the prowess of people-kings
of spear-armed Danes, in days long sped,
we have heard, and what honor the athelings won!
Oft Scyld the Scefing from squadroned foes,
from many a tribe, the mead-bench tore,
awing the earls. Since erst he lay friendless, a foundling, fate repaid him:
for he waxed under welkin, in wealth he throve,
till before him the folk, both far and near,
who house by the whale-path, heard his mandate,
gave him gifts: a good king he!

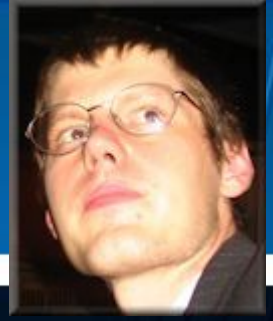
PÆT PE GARD

HIC
HAROLD REX INTERFEC
TUS EST

The Story of the Passing Years (12-th cent.)

Several translations have been made from the Old Ruthenian language into Ukrainian: by L. Machnovetz, V. Yaremenko, T. Kostruba.

Transposition



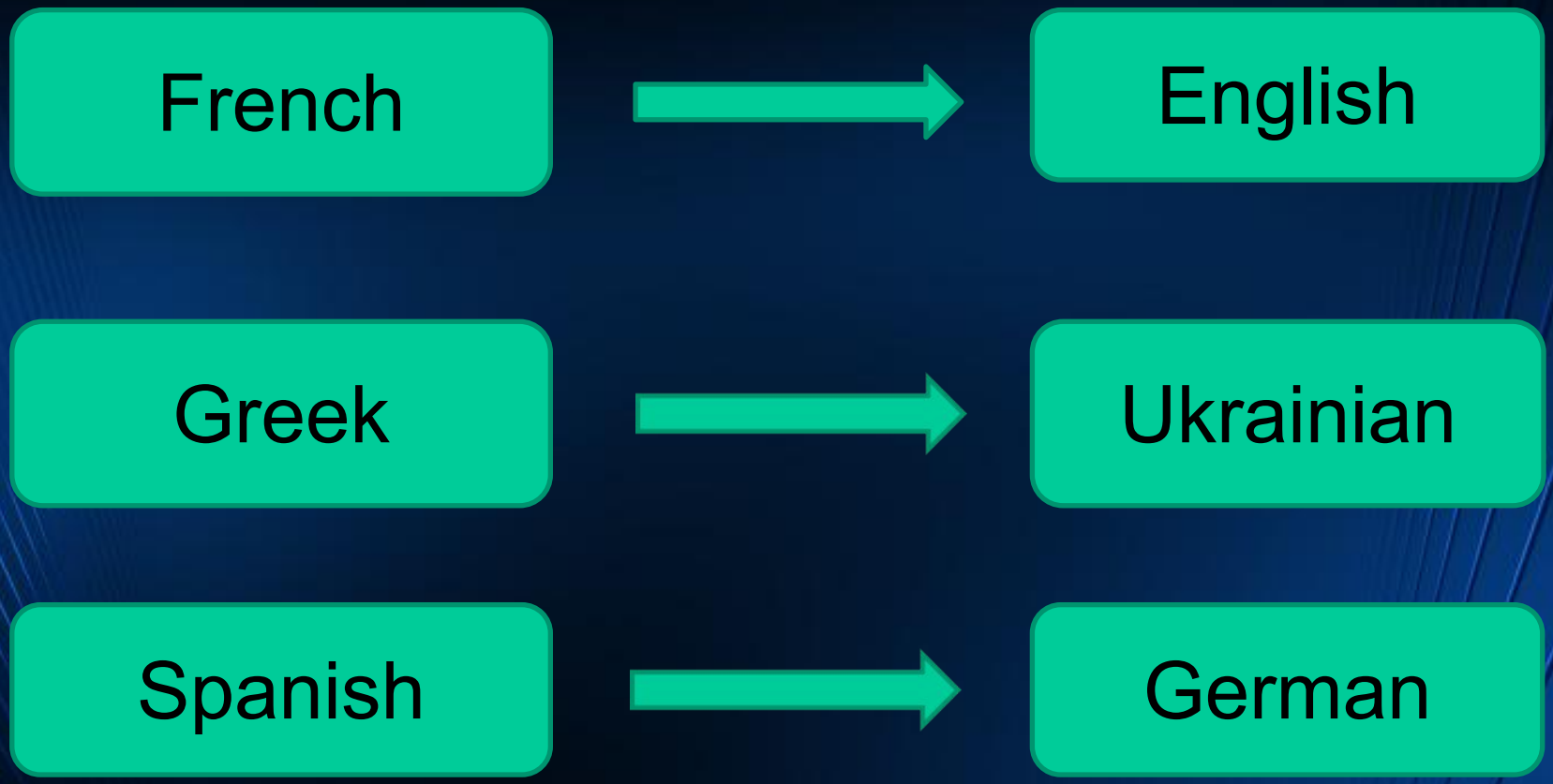
“In transposition there is an attempt to produce the original as the author might have done if he or she appeared in the given socio-historical time and place of the transposition and retained the consciousness that created each sentence of the original” (Henry Whittlesely).

- Transposing the content
- Transposing the form
- Transposing the form and content
- Rendering narration as image or illustration or film or another form of media

Hans Jacob Christoffel von Grimmelshause (1621-1676)

"Recently, for example, Reinhard Kaiser transposed the idiom of Grimmelshausen (*Der Abenteuerliche Simplicissimus*) from seventeenth-century to twenty first-century German. Such an act, somewhat recalling the abridged versions of the classics we now read in our exceptional American educational system, does not however leave out content, but rather makes <u>an old text accessible by modernizing solely the language</u>".

Interlingual translation: binary



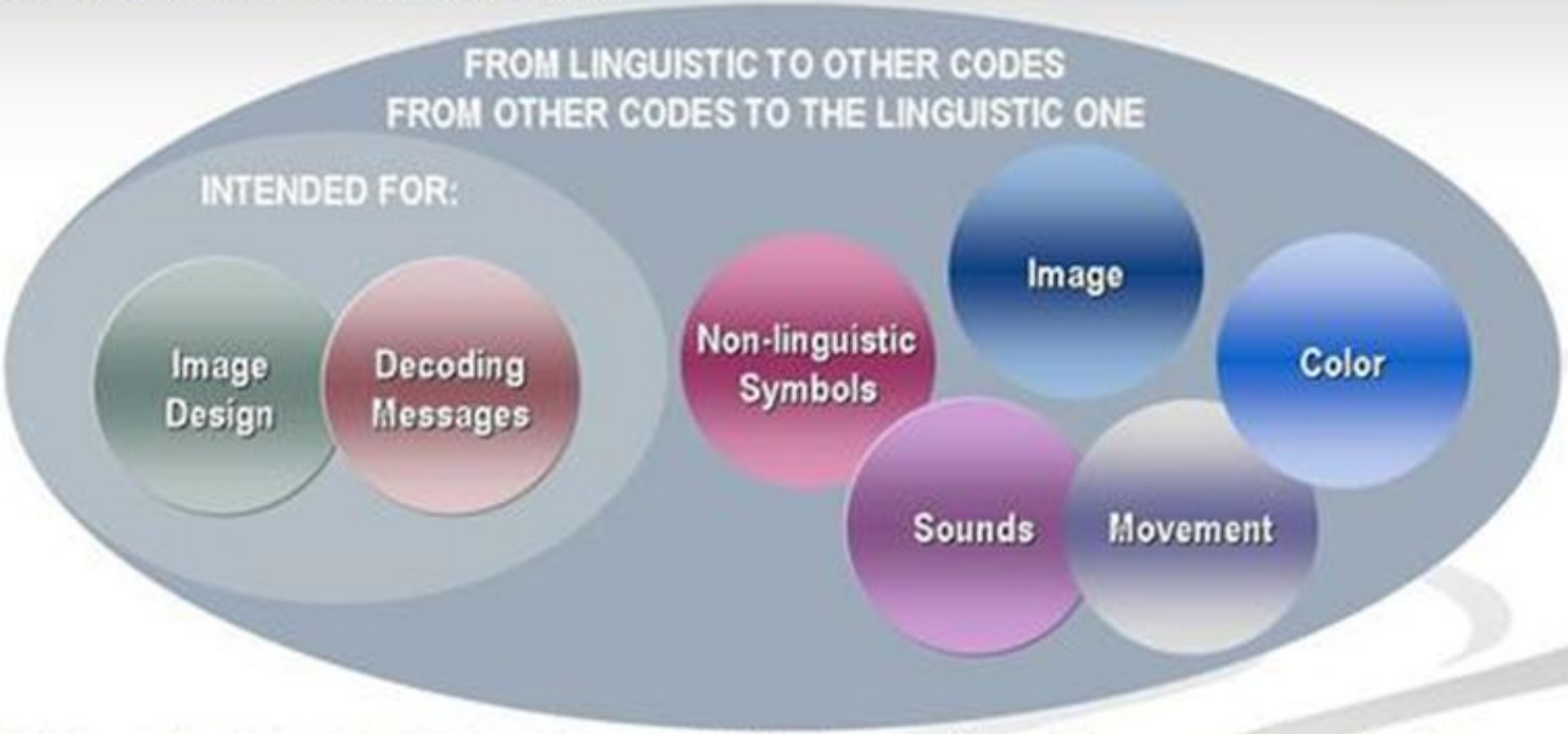
Intersemiotic translation

The ***Intersemiotic Translation*** deals with two or more completely different codes e.g., linguistic one vs. musical and/or dancing, and/or image ones. Thus, when Tchaikovsky composed the ***Romeo and Juliet*** he actually performed an intersemiotic translation: he 'translated' Shakespeare's play from the linguistic code into the musical one. The expression code was changed entirely from words to musical sounds. Then, as it was meant for ballet, there was a ballet dancer who 'translated' further, from the two previous codes into a 'dancing' one, which expresses itself through body movement.

The ***Intersemiotic Translation*** is largely used in image design, advertising & publicity. Some ideas expressed verbally are to be translated into images and/or movement. Thus, the product image can be described in words and then 'translated' into an image that will release the same message as the original words.

Intersemiotic Translations

The most complex translation of all – it turns the meanings from one specific expression code to a totally different one. Linguistics only is not enough to approach this translation. What one needs to really deal with it (if one isn't a Van Gogh or similar!) is Semiotics, thorough knowledge on all other expressive codes and a highly creative combination of both. Even so, one can only reach a mere but effective 'commercial' impact!



It helps with a full understanding of communication, irrespective of the expression code. Its main 'commercial' uses might be the two above and, mostly, the artistic level (not handled by us), but the actual importance stands in understanding... LIFE!

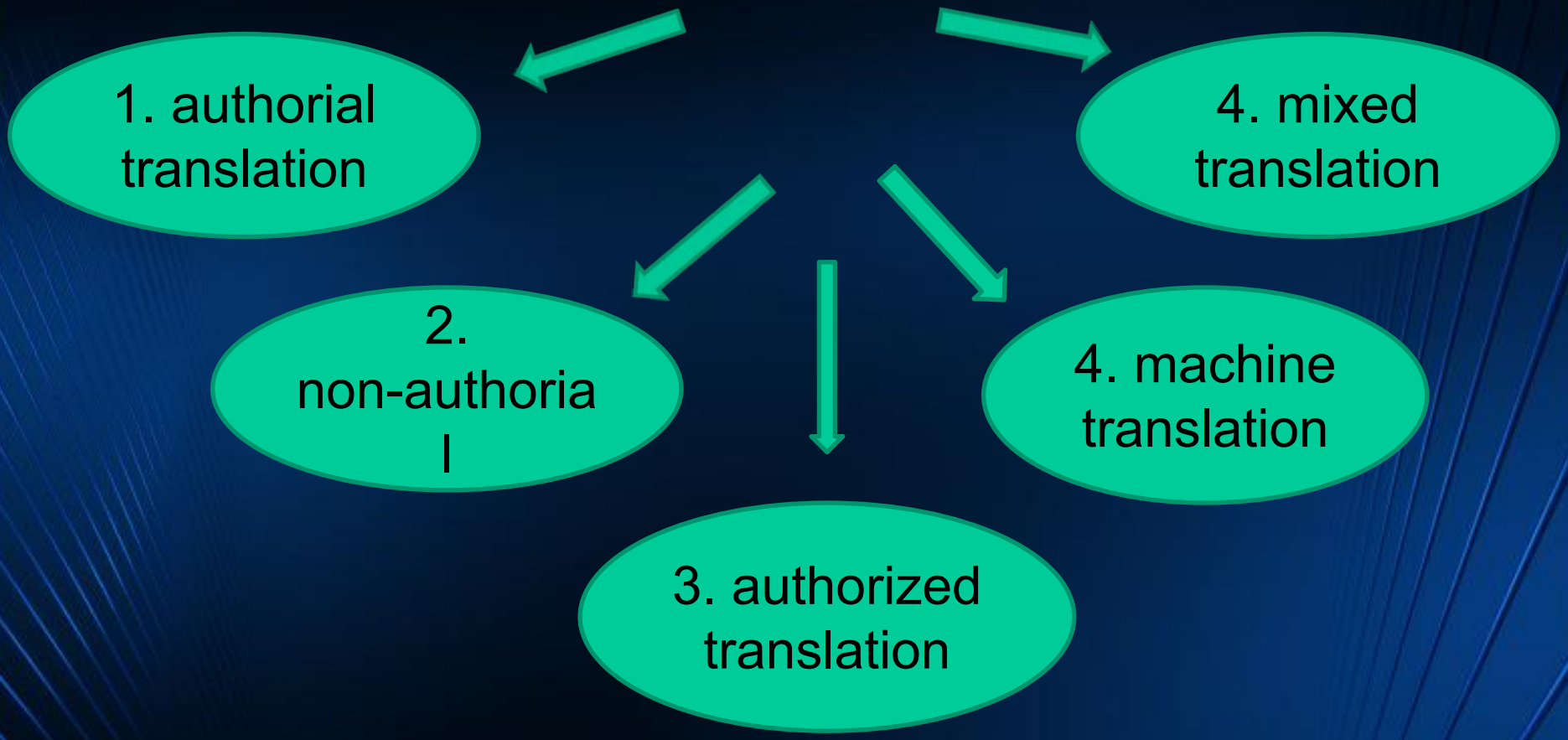
Transmutation

The word “transmutation” implies a sudden and/or radical change in form.

In the recent spate of remixes of Nick Montfort’s computer-generated poem Taroko Gorge (Montfort, 2009), the contents of the remixed texts as they are displayed on screen may appear to diverge radically from Taroko Gorge, yet these remixes are based on the now familiar sub-text of Montfort’s source code.

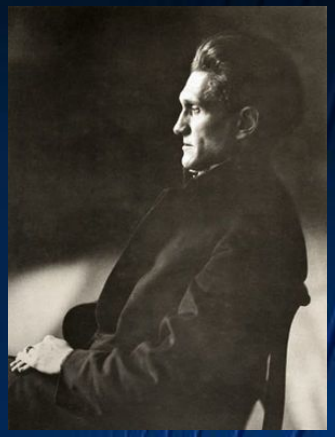
- Conversely, the translation of a computer-generated text from one programming language to another may radically alter the source code yet result in little or no change to the content or behaviour of the text displayed on screen, as in the case of Montfort's own initial translation of Taroko Gorge from Python into JavaScript.

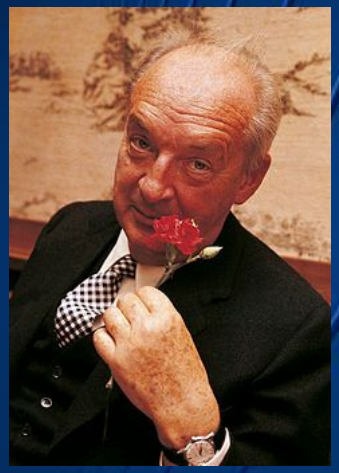
2. Correlation between the translator and the author



Authorial, non-authorial and authorized translations: examples

- Stefan George's (1868-1933) translations of his own poems from German into English.
- Vladimir Nabokov's (1899-1977) poems from Russian into English
- Authorized translation of "The Stories" (1922) of Chaim Bialik (1873-1934) from Yiddish into Russian.





- Irrespective of the intrinsic qualities of the secondary text, self-translations are often regarded as superior to non-authorial translations. This is because "the writer-translator is no doubt felt to have been in a better position to recapture the intentions of the author of the original than any ordinary translator“ (Brian Fitch).

Factors that encourage self-translation

- The elite character of a specific language
- The cultural dominance of a specific language in a multilingual society
- The cultural dominance of the national language may encourage self-translation from a local dialect
- Perfect or almost perfect bilingualism
- Dissatisfaction with existing translations or distrust of translators may encourage self-translation

Machine translation

Machine translation performs simple substitution of words in one language for words in another, but that alone usually cannot produce a good translation of a text because recognition of whole phrases and their closest counterparts in the target language is needed.

Mixed translation

- Mixed translation combines the traditional translation techniques with the machine translation.

3. Segmentation of the text and the structural units

1. morphemic translation
2. word translation
3. phrasal translation
4. paragraph translation
5. whole-text translation

Morphemic translation

- Examples: translation from Greek into Old Slavic

ἱερ-εύς свати-тель

γραμματ-εὺς кьнижь-никь

κρωτο-κλισ-ία прьво-вьзлежа-ние

σκληρο-καρδ-ία жесто-срьд-ие

θεο-σεβ-ής — бого- чьсть-нь

ἄ-σβεσ-τος не-гас-имъ

εὐ-λογ-ειν — благо-слови-ти

Translation of prefixes:

ἀντι — сѫпротиво-

δια — раз-(рас-)

ἐκ — из-(ис-)

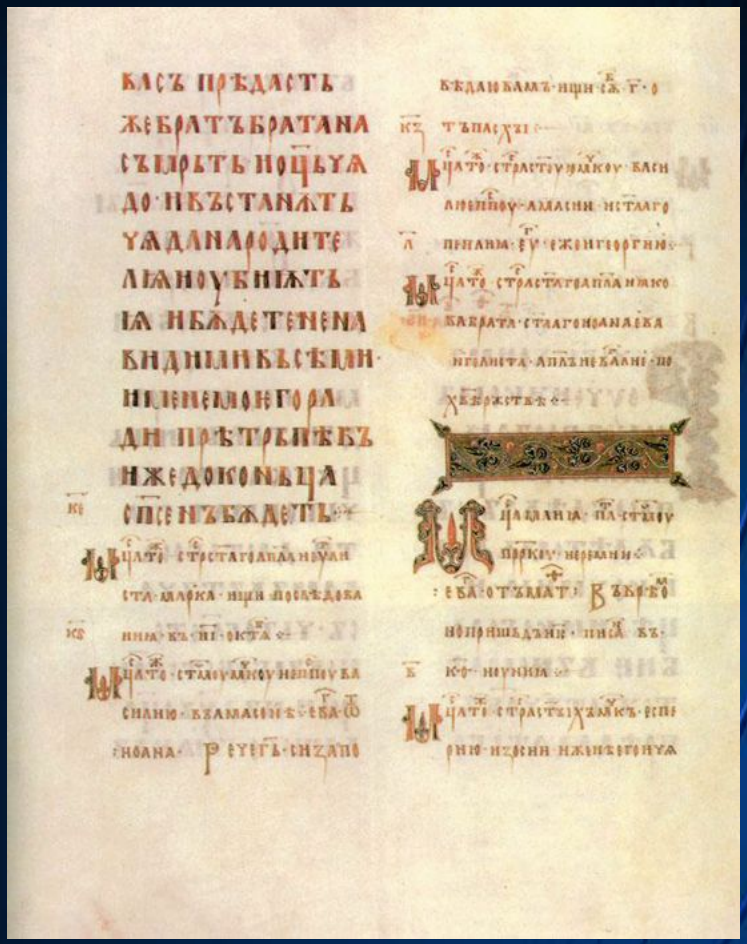
ἐν- — въ-

ἐπι- — на-

κατα- о-

συν — съ

ὑπο-подъ



Word-by-word translation

- This kind of translation is used for the sacral texts mainly.

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ

ἐν ἀρχῇ ἐποίησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ τὴν γῆν

In principio creavit Deus caelum et terram.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

На початку Бог створив небо та землю. (Gen 1:1)

Phrasal translation

- In the phrasal translation a phrase of SL is substituted with an equivalent phrase of TL

United Nations Organization = Організація Об’єднаних націй

Independent nation = незалежна держава

…run round like a squirrel in a cage = …крутитися як муха в окропі

Paragraph and the whole-text translation

- This kind of translation takes into consideration text cohesion and elements of discourse which make the text coherent, understandable and perceivable.

4. Form of presentation of ST and TT

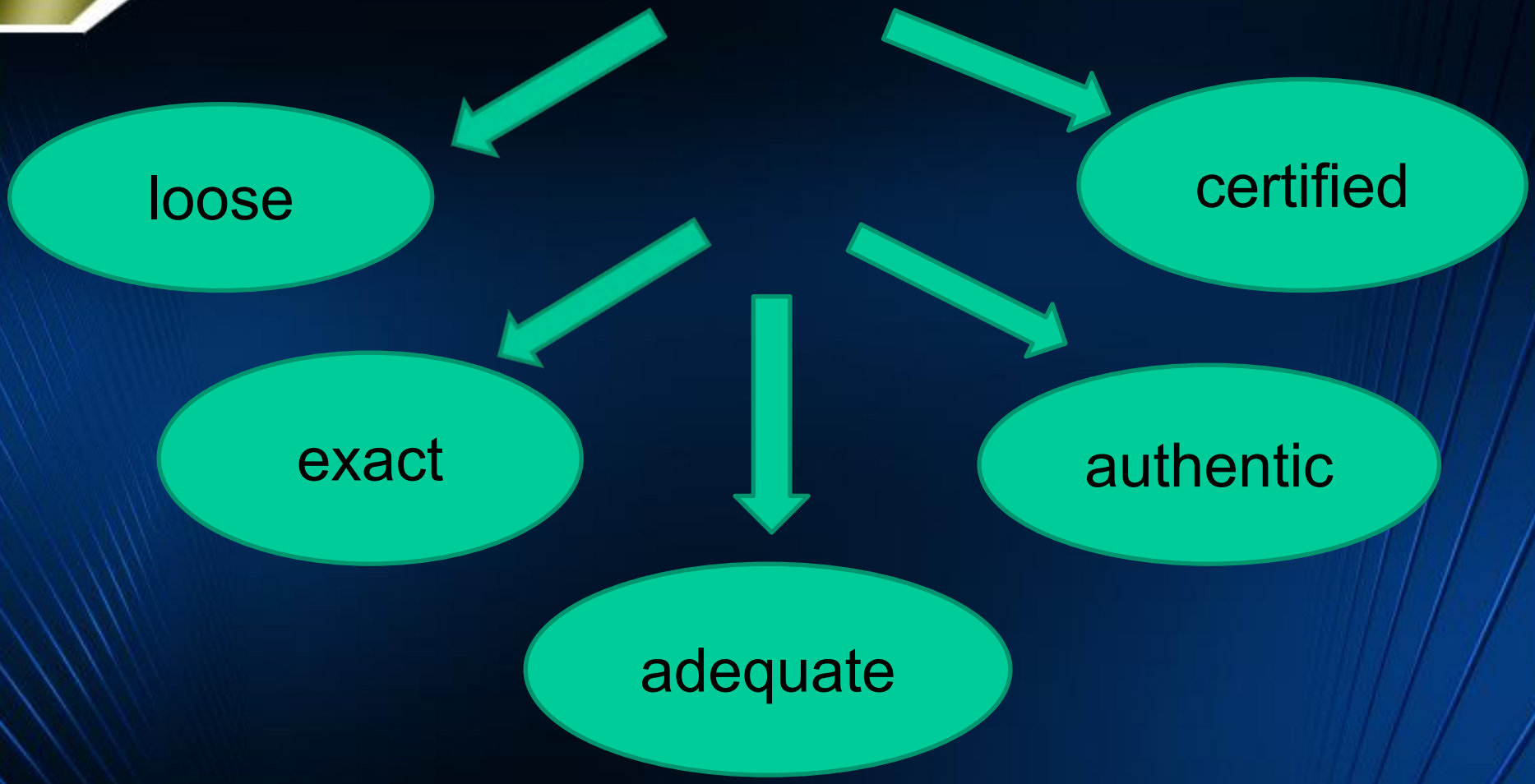
writing

1. Writing translation of the written text.
2. Writing translation of the oral text.

oral

1. Oral translation of the oral text: synchronic, consecutive, one-sided, double-sided.
2. Oral translation of the written text.

5. Correlation between ST and TT



Loose (free) translation

Loose (or free) translation a translation or restatement that is not completely accurate and not well thought out; a translation or restatement done casually.

Characteristics of the loose translation:

- Equivalence at the level of message, but not at the level of statement and utterance.
- Correspondence between ST and TT at the level of core information without taking into account formal and semantic components of ST.
- Loose translation is a subjective rendering of the main content of ST

In the past loose translation was used mainly for rendering the secular writings.

Exact (“sworn”) translation

A “sworn” translation has a little bit of wiggle room. This kind of translation is used for rendering:

- Sacral texts
- Juridical texts
- Ancient texts which are aimed at scholars and students

Adequate translation

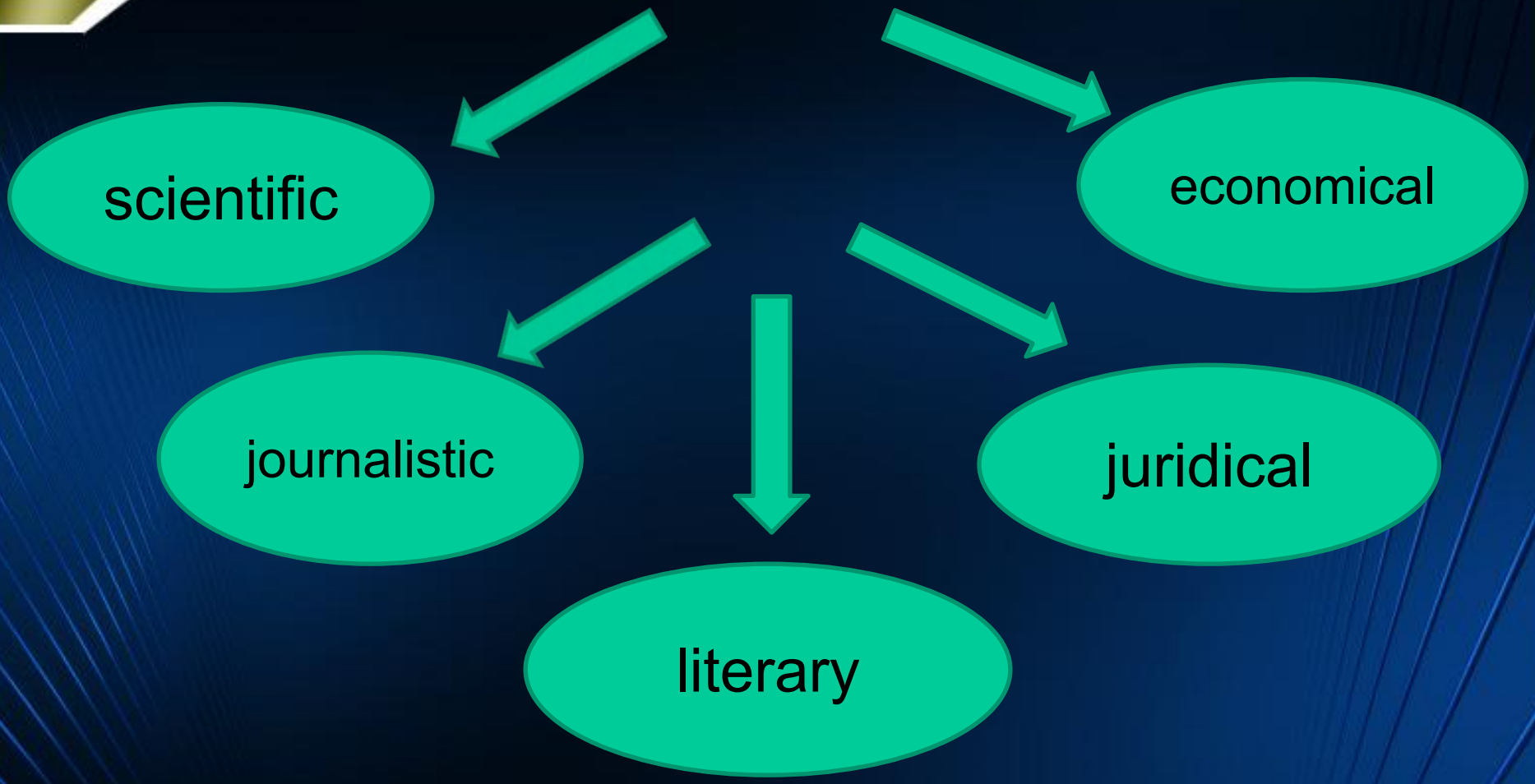
This kind of translation provides not only correct rendering of the content, but also vocabulary, syntax and stylistic specificities of ST.

- Competent substitution of all the elements of ST in TT.
- Translation which takes into consideration the context and style.
- Translation which represents ST in full measure.

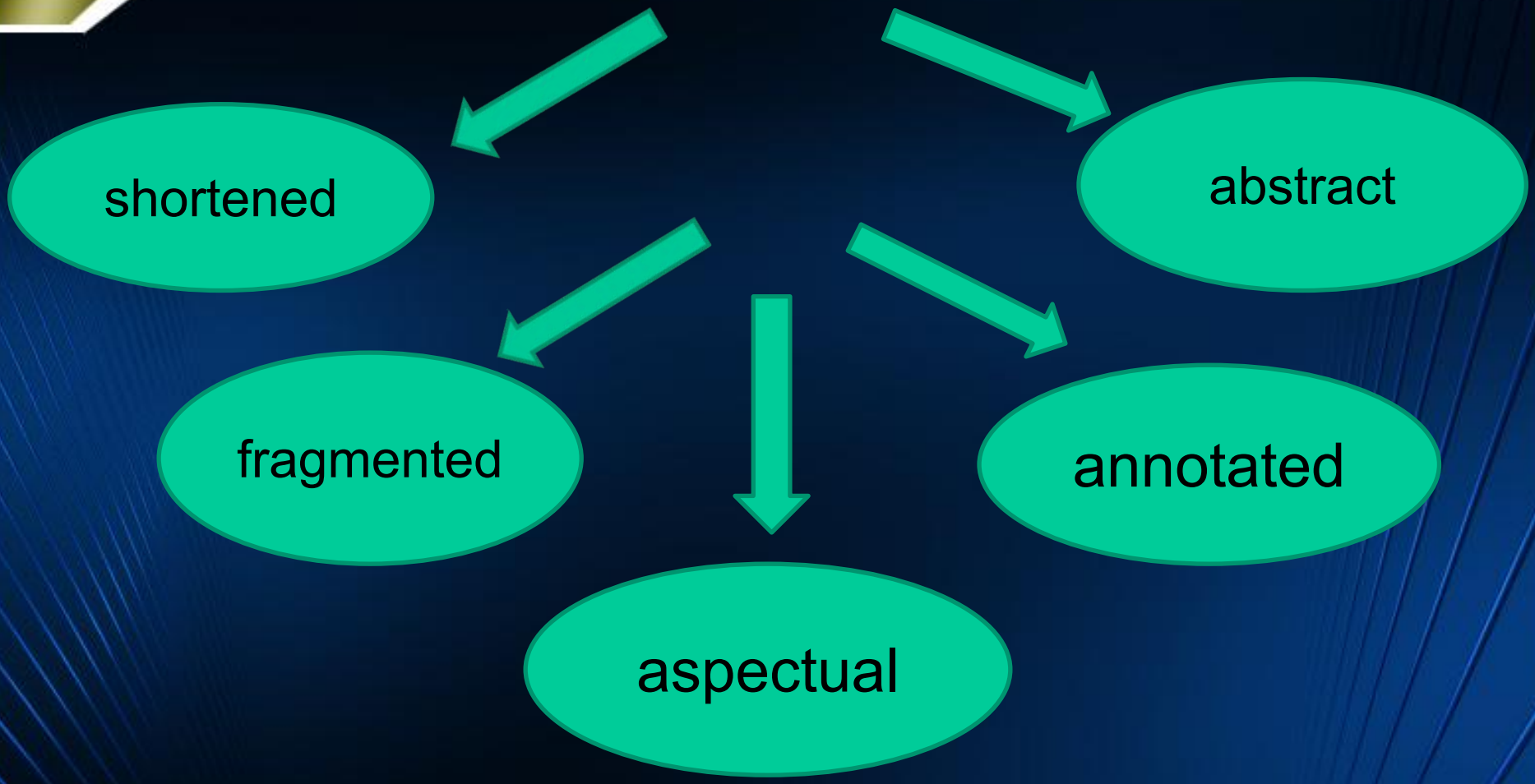
Authentic and certified translations

- Authentic (apostiled) translation In some cases, the signature and work of the above mentioned translators needs to be authenticated. You generally only need apostille translators for marriage, divorce, and some citizenship documents.
- Certified translation is one of the most common translation types we deal with. Really, a “certified” translation is any translated document that’s verified by a translator to be accurate. Thus, a certified document can be anything, like a birth certificate or a letter from a family member.

6. Genre and style characteristics

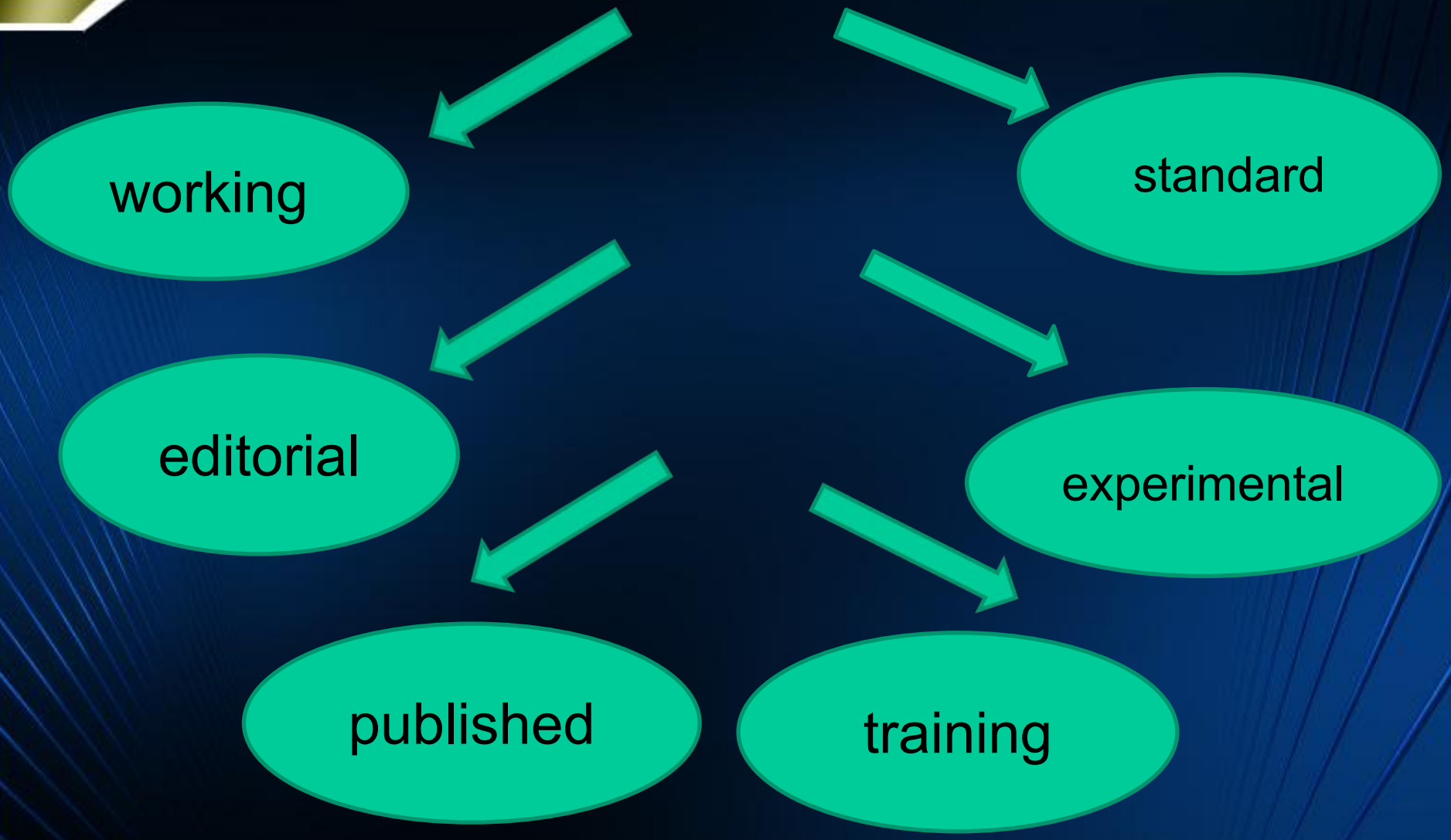


7. Fullness and mode of rendering of the text



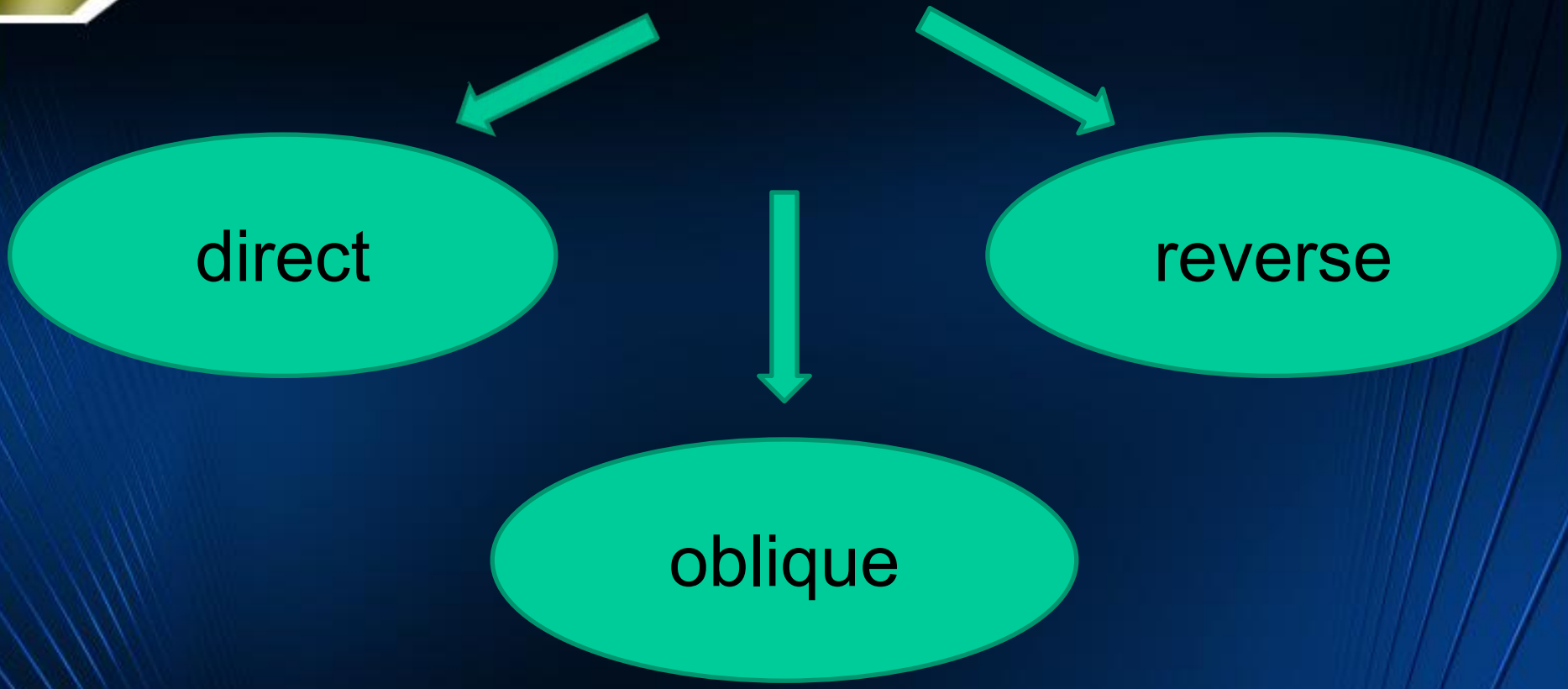
- Shortened translation: only the main content is rendered
- Fragmented translation: only parts of the text is rendered
- Aspectual translation: translation is made in accordance with a certain aspect.
- Annotated translation: translation which contains only the main theme, subject and target of ST.
- Abstract translation: the main content of ST is represented in details.

8. The main pragmatic functions



- Working translation: a raw draft of the translated text which needs to be corrected.
- Editorial translation: the translated text which is intended for publication.
- Published translation: the practical or training translation which is published.
- Training translation is used for teaching translators.
- Experimental translation is made for research purpose.
- Standard translation is made as a pattern.

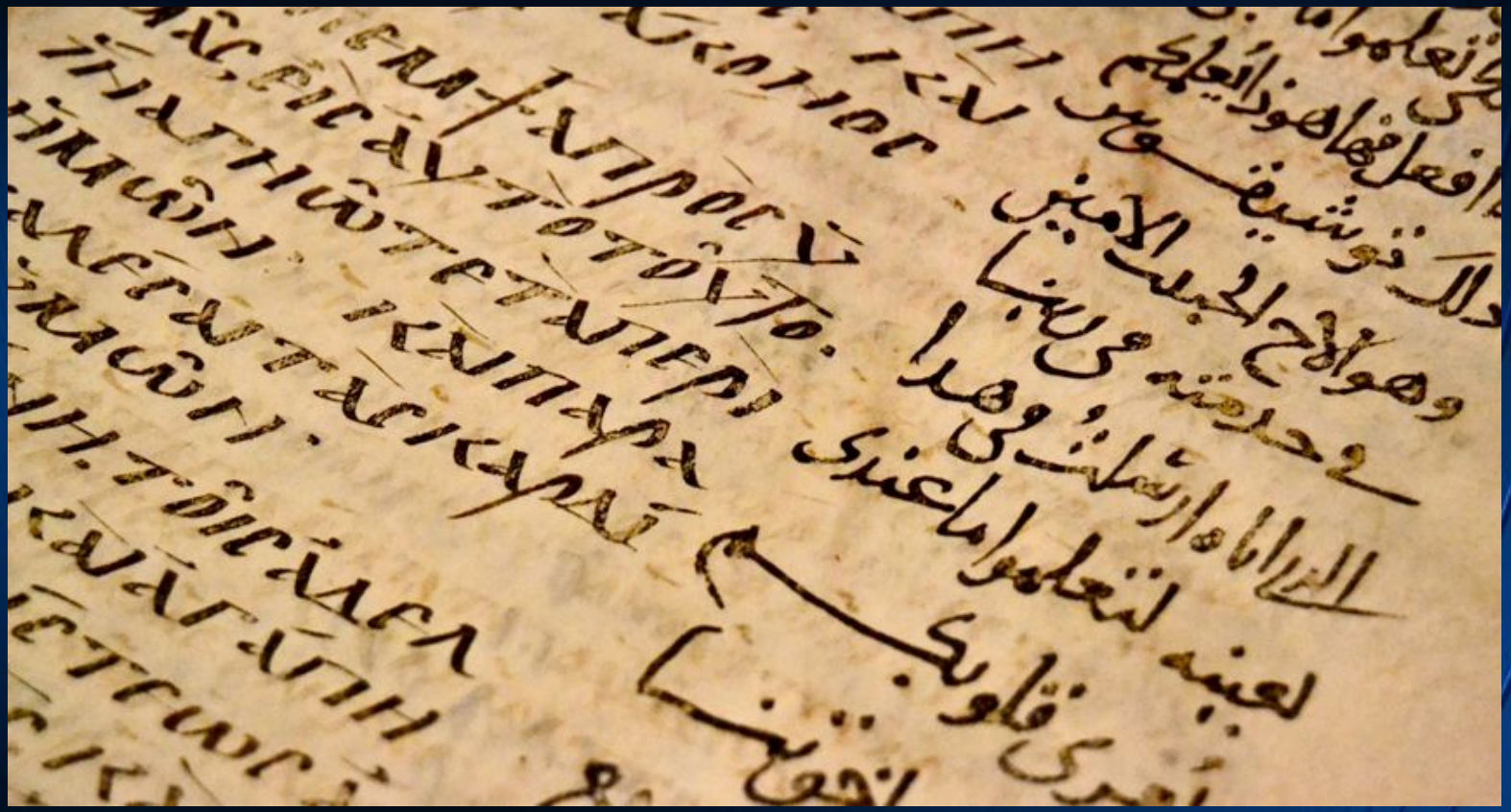
9. Originality / unoriginality of ST



- Direct translation is made immediately from the original text.
- Oblique translation is not made from the original directly, but from other translation (for example, the Ostroh Bible which was translated from the Greek translation).
- Reverse translation is made TT back to ST; as usual, for training or research aims.

10. Type of adequacy

semantically and stylistically correct translation

pragmatically and desired adequate translations

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