

# J. C. (IAN) CATFORD



- **Full Name:**

J. C. (Ian) Catford

- **Date of Birth:**

March 26, 1917

- **Place of Birth:**

Edinburgh, Scotland

- **Date of Death:**

October 06, 2009

- **Place of Death:**

Seattle, Washington

# Translation is defined by Catford as...

- An operation performed on languages, a process of substituting a text in one language for a text in another.
- The replacement of textual material in one language (source language) by equivalent material in other language (target language).

# Catford's theories and concepts regarding translation

- ⦿ Translation is unidirectional (from source language to a target language).
- ⦿ A linguistic theory of translation is an analysis of the process of translation, such theory is directed to answer general or specific problems that may arise when any translation is undertaken

- ① Catford examined several issues involved in the translation process like extent, meaning, level of languages, phonological and graphological translation, to evolve his theory of translation.
- ① He also stated that the central task of any translation is to find out the target language' equivalents.

- ⦿ A textual equivalence is defined as any target language, text or portion of text which is to be equivalent of a given source language text or portion of text.
- ⦿ A formal correspondent is defined as any target language category which can be said to occupy as nearly as possible the same place in the economy of the target language as the given source language category occupies in the source language

Based on extent of source language text he distinguishes to types of translation...

- Full translation, every part of source language is replaced by target language text material through translation
- Partial translation, some parts of source language text are left untranslated and or incorporated in the target language text.

# Based on levels of language, he differentiates between to types of translation...

- Total translation which involves translation at all levels (grammar, lexis, phonological and graphological levels)
- Partial translation, involves translation at one or two levels.

# Catford analyses the importance of meaning through translation...

- Meaning captures the essence of the text and meaningful translation also can transfer the essence.
- Meaning is defined as total network of relations entered by any linguistic form.
- “Each language carries with it its own meaning since message is property of a language”



## Works

Among his many articles, published essays and other works, it is worth highlighting the following:

- *A Practical Introduction to Phonetics*
- *Linguistic Theory of Translation: an essay in Applied Linguistics*
- *Fundamental Problems in Phonetics*
- *Word-stress and sentence-stress: a practical and theoretical guide for teachers of Basic English*
- *A Linguistic Theory of Translation*
- *Ergativity in Caucasian Languages*

Thank for your  
attention