

Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 6, June 2026



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THE ROLE OF TRANSLATION STUDIES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING AT TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES

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Abstract

In the contemporary globalized world, English has become the primary language of science, technology, and international communication. As a result, technical university students are required to develop not only general language proficiency but also the ability to understand and translate specialized technical texts. This article examines the role of Translation Studies in English language teaching at technical universities. It highlights the contribution of translation activities to the development of technical terminology competence, reading comprehension, writing skills, and analytical thinking. The paper also discusses the challenges students face in technical translation, including terminological difficulties and grammatical differences between languages. The study emphasizes that translation serves as an effective pedagogical tool that bridges language learning and professional education, preparing future engineers and technical specialists for successful participation in international professional environments.

Keywords: Translation studies, English language teaching, technical universities, technical translation, terminology competence, reading comprehension, writing skills, analytical thinking, professional communication, engineering education.

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Introduction

The rapid development of science, technology, and international cooperation has significantly increased the importance of English language proficiency in technical and engineering fields. Today, English serves as the dominant language of scientific publications, technical documentation, research reports, and professional communication. Consequently, students studying at technical universities must acquire advanced language skills that enable them to access, understand, and use professional information effectively.

In this context, translation studies has gained considerable attention as an important component of English language teaching. Translation is no longer viewed merely as a method of transferring information from one language to another. Instead, it is recognized as a valuable educational tool that promotes language awareness, critical thinking, and professional competence. Through translation activities, students learn to interpret specialized texts, analyze linguistic structures, and apply technical terminology accurately. Technical translation is particularly relevant for engineering students because their future careers require frequent interaction with technical manuals, scientific articles, project documentation, and international standards. The ability to translate and understand such materials contributes to professional success and lifelong learning.

Furthermore, translation activities help bridge the gap between language learning and professional education. By working with authentic technical texts, students simultaneously improve their English language proficiency and expand their subject-specific knowledge. This integrated approach enhances motivation and prepares learners for real-world communication in professional settings. The purpose of this article is to examine the role of translation studies in English language teaching at technical universities and to analyze its contribution to the development of linguistic, professional, and cognitive competencies among students of engineering and technological disciplines.

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Discussion and results

Development of technical terminology competence. One of the primary benefits of translation studies in technical universities is the development of technical terminology competence. Engineering and technological disciplines rely heavily on specialized vocabulary, and students must understand and accurately use technical terms in professional contexts. Translation activities expose learners to authentic terminology related to their fields of study. For example, students specializing in petroleum engineering may encounter terms such as *drilling equipment*, *reservoir engineering*, *well completion*, *pipeline transportation*, and *oil recovery techniques*. Through translation practice, students learn not only the meanings of these terms but also their appropriate usage in technical discourse. Furthermore, translation promotes terminology management skills, enabling students to create glossaries and terminology databases that support future professional activities.

Enhancement of reading comprehension skills. Technical texts often contain complex sentence structures, specialized terminology, and dense informational content. Translation encourages students to engage in close reading and detailed analysis of texts. When translating scientific articles, manuals, or technical reports, learners must identify key ideas, recognize logical relationships, and interpret information accurately. This process strengthens reading comprehension skills and prepares students for independent study of professional literature. Moreover, improved reading abilities enable students to access up-to-date scientific information and participate more effectively in lifelong learning.

Improvement of writing skills. Translation also contributes significantly to the development of writing skills. Students learn to produce coherent, accurate, and stylistically appropriate texts in both their native language and English. Technical translation requires attention to clarity, precision, and consistency. By

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translating technical documents, students become familiar with the conventions of scientific and professional writing, including the use of passive constructions, formal vocabulary, and standardized terminology. As a result, translation activities support the development of academic writing skills necessary for preparing reports, research papers, and project documentation.

Development of analytical and critical thinking. Translation is fundamentally a problem-solving activity. Translators constantly make decisions regarding lexical choices, grammatical structures, and cultural adaptations. Students engaged in translation tasks must analyze linguistic patterns, compare language systems, evaluate translation alternatives, and justify their decisions. Such activities foster analytical thinking and critical reasoning, which are essential competencies for engineers and technical professionals. The cognitive processes involved in translation contribute to intellectual development and enhance students' ability to process complex information effectively.

Challenges of technical translation. Despite its numerous benefits, technical translation presents several challenges for students.

Terminological difficulties. Technical fields continuously generate new concepts and terminology. Translators must remain updated on developments within their disciplines and understand the precise meanings of specialized terms. In many cases, direct equivalents may not exist between languages, requiring translators to use descriptive translations or adopt internationally recognized terminology.

Grammatical and structural differences. English technical texts often employ grammatical structures that differ significantly from those used in other

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languages. Long noun phrases, passive constructions, and complex sentence patterns can create difficulties for students.

For example: *"The automated drilling control system significantly improves operational efficiency."*

Translating such structures requires careful analysis to preserve meaning and maintain readability.

Maintaining accuracy and consistency. Technical translation demands a high level of accuracy because even minor errors can lead to misunderstandings or operational problems. Students must learn to maintain consistency in terminology usage and ensure that translations accurately reflect the source text. This requirement highlights the importance of systematic translation training within technical education.

The use of translation technologies in technical education. Technological developments have transformed translation practice. Modern translators use a variety of digital tools, including:

- computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools;
- terminology management systems;
- translation memory databases;
- machine translation applications;
- corpus-based linguistic resources.

Incorporating these technologies into English language teaching helps students acquire digital competencies relevant to contemporary professional environments.

Students learn to evaluate machine-generated translations critically, edit translated texts, and utilize translation software efficiently. Such skills increase productivity and prepare graduates for the demands of the modern workplace.

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Translation and intercultural communication. Translation is closely connected with intercultural communication. Engineers frequently collaborate with international partners, participate in multinational projects, and communicate across cultural boundaries.

Translation activities expose students to different communication styles, professional conventions, and cultural perspectives. Through this process, learners develop intercultural awareness and learn to adapt communication strategies appropriately.

Intercultural competence enhances professional effectiveness and supports successful participation in global engineering communities.

Pedagogical implications. The successful integration of translation studies into English language teaching requires carefully designed instructional approaches. Effective strategies include:

- translating authentic technical texts;
- terminology analysis exercises;
- comparative linguistic studies;
- collaborative translation projects;
- translation technology training;
- peer review and editing activities.

Educators should select materials that correspond to students' academic specializations and professional interests. Such an approach increases motivation and ensures the practical relevance of language instruction. Additionally, project-based translation tasks encourage teamwork, independent learning, and problem-solving skills.

Conclusion

Translation studies plays a crucial role in English language teaching at technical universities. It facilitates the development of linguistic competence, technical

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terminology knowledge, analytical thinking, and intercultural communication skills. Translation serves as an effective bridge between language education and professional training, enabling students to engage meaningfully with specialized technical content.

The integration of translation activities into English language instruction enhances students' readiness for professional communication in international contexts. Furthermore, the use of modern translation technologies and authentic technical materials supports the development of competencies required in contemporary engineering and technological professions. Therefore, translation studies should be regarded as an essential component of English language education in technical higher education institutions, contributing significantly to the preparation of highly qualified and globally competitive specialists.

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