

FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND VIETNAMESE

DOMESTICATING AN ENGLISH ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DOCUMENT: A PERSPECTIVE OF SKOPOS THEORY

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ABSTRACT: Translators of any documents including technical ones always manage to bring a source text closer to target readership. With a Skopos, or a purpose, in mind, they can help reduce the abnormality of the source text to achieve communicative goals with target readers. Following this principle, the researcher has done this study to identify the translator's purposes of applying six domestication strategies into making an English electrical engineering material accessible and practical to the electrical engineers. The investigation of these purposes was carried out from a perspective of the Skopos theory put forward by Hans J. Vermeer in Germany in the 1970s. The data was collected from the interview of the material translator about the reasons for her selecting the six domestication strategies at word, phrase, and clause levels. The findings show that the translator considered both linguistic and cultural transfer, the factors related to the domestication process, and translation theoretical foundation. In other words, the translator had a Skopos or purposefulness in domesticating the technical source text for the sake of the target audience. Furthermore, some implications are made to translator trainee education.

KEY WORDS: Skopos theory; purposefulness in translation; adequacy in translation; domestication strategies; technical translation.

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1. Introduction

Localizing technical documents to reach target audience is of necessity in the era of fast-paced technological advancements so that technical readers can update knowledge and practices in their field. Thus, there has been a huge demand for translated technical texts such as user guides, owner's manuals, and others. The translator needs to have both linguistic and culture knowledge in addition to minimal understanding or expertise of the subject matter in source text.

In literature, there has been little of scientific and technical translation (Byrne, 2014). In addition, existing conventional translation theories may be context-free and fail to meet the nature of translation (Byrne, *ibid.*) including purposes or other factors in the translation process and product. To increase intercultural communication and exchange between the author and target readers, domestication is applied. This translation method helps bring target text closer to target readers' needs. Why does the translator apply domestication strategies in translating specific source texts? This question urges the researcher to investigate how the translator's purposefulness or Skopos affects the translation process.

This study is in a research project on domesticating a technical English document into Vietnamese, a pioneer in translation studies. The project started with the investigation of how six popular domestication strategies were applied at word, phrase, and clause levels to increase readability of an electrical engineering document to the electrical engineers at a Vietnamese technology company. Such applications are flexible, depending on various factors, which is the rationale for the second part of the research project. In the second stage, the researcher aims to identify reasons for the translator's use of the domestication strategies in translating the electrical engineering manual.

The literature review focuses on features of technical communication and technical translation, the

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Skopos theory, and the domestication as a strategy to translate technical documents.

Features of technical communication and technical translators:

Scientific and technical documentation includes results of pure science, results of applied scientific research, or results of technologists' work involved in industrial products or processes for commercial purposes (Pinchuck, 1977, cited in Byrne 2014). Pinchuck (1977) also distinguished between scientific texts and technical texts in aims, language use, and therefore strategies needed to translate the two source texts. Specifically, a technical text is made to convey the information as precisely and transparently as possible from those results of work and research in science and technology without further evaluative opinions. In this research, technical texts are studied, rather than both including scientific ones, as a means of disseminating or communicating technical knowledge to target audience (Byrne, *ibid.*).

Technical language is indicated by such features as syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic ones. In this research, the given technical document was investigated syntactically at lexicon and structural levels on the principle of considering lexicon as the smallest fundamental unit which forms technical phrases and sentences.

Technical communication is defined as the design and transmission of technical information in a technical text such as product manuals or brochures which are easy, effective for target audience to understand and to perform things quickly while the audience can avoid making mistakes or even dangerous situations (Markel, 2001, as cited in Byrne, *ibid.*). He (*ibid.*) clarifies that this communication is mostly made by technical communicators whose job includes translating, editing, and illustrating; obviously, they work as technical translators.

Furthermore, technical communication is aimed at guiding specific readers to do tasks, and thus technical documents are task-oriented and tailored to specific readers' needs (Chubert, 2009, Gopferich, 2009, Byrne, 2006, cited in Byrne, 2014). In addition, technical communication is not usually consistent in both form and content due to a product of technical writers' collaborative work. As a result, technical communicators or translators need to be creative to achieve communicative goals with target audience.

Technical translators need also to recognize and create the genre of communication and convention accepted in a discourse community or the target audience so that their translations are well received. The genre is not about linguistic similarities but the shared understanding of audience, discourse, and environment in which the discourse is made and accepted.

There are three common types of technical translators: namely staff translators (company full-time staff), in-house translators (who may work with translation inside or outside industrial companies) and freelancer translators. All of them need to be inquisitive with a profound understanding of both source and target languages (Byrne, 2014) in addition to having expertise in technologies (Olohan, 2015). Besides that, technical translators need to have problem-solving skills and competences including language, intercultural, and thematic competences, acquire new knowledge quickly and use technological tools effectively for document production and management [Olohan, 2015].

- Skopos Theory:

Skopos theory, also named Skopostheorie and initiated by Hans J. Vermeer in the 1970s is the key to functionalist translation study whose focus is Skopos or purpose of translational action [Du, 2012]. This action is not only a linguistic but also cultural transfer (Wang, 2014). Translation is a means of communicating information between the author of source text and the translator, and between the translator and target audience (Wang, *ibid.*). Under this theory, it is necessary to consider such aspects of translation as the roles and relationship between the source and target text, the position of translators, the concept of translation and translation strategies (Du, *ibid.*). As for the focus of this functional theory, the target text is at the centre while the source text is an offer of the information, and the "adequacy" of a translation depends on the extent to which the purpose or communicative

function of the translation assigned to the audience is achieved. At this point, reader is one of the most decisive factors to the selection of how source text is translated. The author points out that the translator always has an imagined or implied target reader for their translated text, and it will be a driving force to the translator's practices and the quality of translating product.

Moreover, Du (2012) reports that in Skopostheorie, equivalence means adequacy to a Skopos or purpose which suggests that the target text have the same communicative function or functions as the source text; in other words, communicative translation is produced because of functional equivalence of the target text (Reiss, 2001, as cited in Yang, 2010).

Skopos theory includes three key rules: namely Skopos rule (or purpose rule), coherence rule (or intratextual coherence) and fidelity rule (or intertextual coherence), of which the two latter rules are subordinate to the Skopos rule (Du, 2012). Du (*ibid.*) mentions that among the three principal rules governing a translational action, Skopos rule is the top-ranking rule under which Skopos determines adequate translation strategies. As regards coherence rule, a translation is accepted by the target audience in the way it is coherent with the audience's communicative situation and culture, and the fidelity rule should exist as the source text and target text always have relationship. Besides that, Nord (2001, as cited in Yang, 2010) adds another rule supplementing Skopos theory, named "loyalty rule", which helps eliminate translation at random without following translation brief or specification, causing no relatability between the target text and source text.

In this study, the investigation of how domestication strategies are used to translate the English Electrical Engineering document is carried out from the perspectives of the purpose and coherence rules in the Skopos theory. Meanwhile, the loyalty rule is implicitly followed by the in-house translators as they refer to the information in the source text and obey the translation specification given by the company. Besides that, the fidelity rule is implemented on various levels of the list put forward by Koller (1979:188-189, cited in Byrne, 2014): 1) Denotational meaning which is the object or concept referred to; 2) Connotational meaning related to language level, dialect, style, domain, value, and emotional tone; 3) Textual norms including language features typical to text types such as legal documents; 4) Pragmatic meaning which is readers' expectations and wishes; 5) Linguistic form such as metaphor, rhyme, and others.

Furthermore, translators need to decide on literal translation and free translation (Wang, 2014) to achieve intelligibility and relatability of target text to target audience. As a result, sometimes, they must skip the former one in exchange for the latter one.

- Domestication as a functional strategy to translating technical documents:

Domestication is defined as a translation approach with the aim at reducing ambiguity, strangeness, and linguistic barriers of source text produce a translated version which fits target readers' culture while maintaining original ideas of authors (Yang, 2010). As named to be liberal translation by Yang (2010), domestication enables translations to be accessible to specific readers given their circumstances and knowledge. Therefore, this translation strategy enables the target text to function adequately in the target situation for target addressees as described in the Skopos rule by Du (2012).

Domestication was classified into two levels: minimal level at which target readers and source readers should understand the same key points of texts, while at maximal level, target readers are authoritative to fully comprehend and embalm texts as source readers (Nida, 1993, as cited in Du, 2012). It is apparent that at both levels translators can decide on the degree of domesticating source text to fit into target readership. The results below are reported from the in-house translators' perspective and from a perspective of Skopos theory to find out how six domestication strategies are used in the target text. According to the literature review on these strategies in Nguyen & Nguyen (2021), they are adaptation, addition, approximation, synonymy, omission, and cultural equivalence. Adaptation is a context-filled strategy used to compensate for a culture gap in the target text, and

approximation used to add an alternative expression or occasionally ignore some vocabulary ones to target text. Another strategy is synonymy when the translator selects a target language equivalent to its source one; addition of some linguistic items is utilized when clarity or localization is focussed on the target text. Meanwhile, omission or deleting non-equivalent lexical items in target language helps to avoid repetition, weirdness or cross-cultural misunderstandings, and cultural equivalence supports cross-cultural understanding between source language and target language.

The reasons why the translator has used these six domestication translation strategies at word, phrase and clause levels would be investigated in the study through her in-depth interview.

3. Methodology

Source text and target text:

The source text used in this research is entitled “An Introduction to the SPM HD Method” written by Tim Sundström, R&D, SPM Instrument AB in 2010. It is for internal use of skilled Vietnamese electrical engineers. It is a manual of instructions, technical specifications, and related information in engineering (Rubens, 2001, as cited in Nguyen & Nguyen, 2021). The engineers use the manual in Vietnamese to operate, maintain and repair a new line of products called “Shock Pulse Transducer” and other tasks.

The translated text is made by the in-house translators who are knowledgeable about both English and Vietnamese languages and company cultures, have certain understanding of electrical engineering and can use translation-aiding software together with fundamental word processing skills; in other words, they have sufficient competences and skills to work as technical translators as stated by Olohan (2015). In addition, the in-house translators have consulted the engineers, the target readers, for in-depth expertise of electrical engineering, particularly terminologies and technical phrases.

By all the aforementioned information of the translators and target audience, the translated text is considered to have a clear Skopos, or purpose, which in turn enables the translator to select adequate translation strategies as mentioned by Du (2012). In the previous study about the translation of this document entitled “Applying Domestication Strategies to Translate an Electrical Engineering Document” (Nguyen & Nguyen, 2021), six domestication strategies were used at word levels and clause levels in the translation of source text from English into target text in Vietnamese. This study is aimed to investigate why the translator used those six domestication strategies in translating the document at word and clause levels.

Instruments and data collection:

The research methodology in this study is case study. This enables the researcher to go deep into a case in its natural context without intrusion or intervention (Yin, 2009). The author states that case study is most relevantly used to research with exploratory questions such as that in this study: why did the translator employ six domestication strategies in translating the given electrical engineering document? The researcher has interviewed the translator first-hand and collected data in real-life setting.

To answer the research question, the researcher carried out the in-depth interview of the translator about why she applied six domestication strategies in the target text at word and clause levels. The translator shared her experiences on specific details of the work, which helps the researcher understand her purposefulness in using each of the domestication strategies in context like described by Creswell (2013).

Upon agreeing with consent form, the participant, the translator, formally attended the in-depth interview in a natural setting for about two hours, audio-recorded for later review of transcripts and with notes of key ideas taken.

The in-depth interview was implemented on the protocol below:

- Background information about the participant's qualification and experience, reflection of translation of technical documents, using six domestication strategies to translate the electrical engineering document.

- Code of language: Vietnamese (the participant's and researcher's mother tongue).

- Brief introduction of research: title, objectives, greeting, interview purposes, number of questions, duration, ethical issues, and technical issues such as informing the audio recording and notes of key ideas made during the interview.

- Main contents: asking leading questions, sub-questions and concluding questions for the participant with five items in domesticating the electrical engineering document: linguistic and cultural transfer, the importance and connection between the source and target text, translators' roles, underlying translation theories, and target readers' specific characteristics.

4. Data analysis and research findings

The interview data are analysed at the interpretative level to acquire "the underlying insightful meaning of the data" (Datt, 2018). They were coded on the theme-based principle in four steps: defining concepts and categories by pre-set and open coding, organizing those separate concepts and categories, expanding, and revising categories, and making interpretations and connections of the data using coding notes.

The interviewee, the translator, mentioned five reasons for the use of six domestication strategies in the translation of the electrical engineering document at word, phrase and clause levels from the perspective of the Skopos theory. They are also the five themes for the analysis of the interview data and the findings drawn out for the research.

(i) *The target text is coherent and comprehensible to target audience as it is transferred with linguistic and cultural features of technical source text*

The translator shared the same view as the author Wang (2014) about the involvement of the language and culture transfer in translation. As regards of language transfer, the translator explained that the domestication in target text was different at word level, phrase levels and clause levels.

First, only 0.6% of the words in source text were domesticated to maintain technical communication to target audience who are engineers. The translator stated to apply the knowledge of the field in the source text to domesticate it through the strategies like synonymy, cultural equivalence, adaptation, and addition without using such strategies as approximation and omission. She analysed the equivalent of near-target-text to the source text in this example as an advantage to enhance audience's understanding when using synonymy. The literary translation of the verb "meet" (which means "gặp, vấp phải, đương đầu" (*Từ điển Lạc Việt*)) is transformed to an equivalent moving verb in Vietnamese ("đến"), and the target sentence sounds more authentic.

Source text p.42 (as cited in Nguyen & Nguyen, 2021): *This wavefront will meet other boundaries (air) and the wave will be reflected back hence creating a very characteristic tone.*

Target text: *Sóng đàn hồi này sẽ đến điểm cuối của ly và sẽ phản xạ trở lại, từ đó tạo ra âm thanh vô cùng sắc nét.*

The translator described another example of maintaining cultural features of source text by using the strategy "cultural equivalence". She selected the electronics equivalence "sóng hài", which is unexpected short pulses of a disruptive electronic appliance to translate the word "harmonic" rather than its literal meaning in the Oxford dictionary which focusses on intact multiples of the frequency of a fundamental tone. The target text is more understandable to the Vietnamese electrical engineers, as a result.

Source text (p.88): *If a Fourier Transform is applied to this signal, the result is a single peak with no harmonics in the spectrum.*

Target text: *Nếu tín hiệu này sử dụng phép biến đổi Fourier thì kết quả sẽ cho một đỉnh không có sóng hài trong quang phổ.*

For such words unstated in the source language, the translator added lexical items to the target text like in the instance below.

Source text (p.98): *The drawback is that when a high sampling rate is being used, the aliasing filters are set very high (or not used at all), creating aliasing problems.*

Target text: *Nhược điểm là khi đang dùng tốc độ lấy mẫu cao, các bộ lọc chống nhiễu được đặt rất cao (hoặc không được sử dụng), tạo ra những vấn đề về chống nhiễu.*

The term “aliasing” is translated in Vietnamese as misidentification of a signal frequency, causing distortion or error instead of unknown identification in the *Từ điển Lạc Việt*. To deal with such cases as this adapted one, the translator said in the interview that she asked for the electrical engineers’ suggested terms in their field.

Those examples above show how the translator has been flexible and experienced in supporting the audience’s understandings of target text using the domestication strategies at word levels despite their less popularity in application. Meanwhile, the number of phrases domesticated in target text is 14.3%, twice as much as at single-word levels (Nguyen & Nguyen, 2021). The translator made an interesting conclusion that noun phrases are the most popular when translated to target text, accounting for 95% of the domesticated phrases listed in the source text. Most of them were adapted or changed in target language through “notions, concepts or meanings of the source text” hidden even to the electrical engineering readers (p.70). She mentioned in the interview that she culturally translated the *cultural equivalence* in target text “commutation frequency” which means replacement (“sự giao hoán”, “sự thay thế” (*Từ điển Lạc Việt*)) to be frequency of switching (“tần suất chuyển mạch”) which is more intelligible in electronics. Besides that, the translator adapted the phrase “distinct ringing behaviour” to be “signal fluctuating sharply” and found its Vietnamese equivalence as “thiết bị phù hợp với cảm biến” (unit/facility matching with transducer). As a result of her creative adaptation, the electrical engineering audience could understand the feature of the signals in context. She also quoted the phrase “energy high up in the frequency range” to be approximated as “the wide and high frequency range”, and the Vietnamese equivalence of “dải tần rộng và cao” as a paraphrasing to achieve the closest meaning in the target language. In her interview, she elaborated the domestication as an intangible process to make unintelligible phrases such as “raw value” understood as “unprocessed value” and translated as “giá trị chưa xử lý.”

The translator applied the domestication strategies flexibly to make the source phrases more accessible to the target readers in electronics. In addition, 9.4% of the clauses in the source text were domesticated using strategies except for synonymy, adaptation, and cultural equivalence. Therefore, some clauses or sentences in translated text are more natural and intelligible to target readers, overcoming the problem of lacking target equivalences. As a result, target text can help disseminate technical knowledge to target audience (Byrne, 2014). The translator has approximated splitting of long sentences in shorter ones to describe complex processes, for example, to describe two positions of the frequency in target text. The approximation can be seen in the division of two sentences with the translation of the phrases “interfering low-frequency signals” (“tín hiệu tần số nhiễu”) and the phrase “gear mesh” which is combined with the parallel phrases “unbalance, misalignment and gear mesh” to have its Vietnamese equivalence of “ăn khớp bánh răng”:

Source text (p.48): *It is above the interfering low-frequency signals created from unbalance, misalignment, and gear mesh and well below the ultrasonic frequencies where distance and material transitions severely affect the signal.*

Target text: *Tần số này nằm trên các tín hiệu tần số nhiễu do sự mất cân bằng, lệch tâm hoặc sự ăn khớp bánh răng. Nó thấp hơn tần số siêu âm, nơi tín hiệu bị ảnh hưởng nghiêm trọng bởi khoảng cách và sự chuyển tiếp vật liệu.*

The translator omitted unnecessary words in the target text while maintaining its meaning and preventing audience's confusion, like in this sentence, the relative pronoun "where...are present" was not translated in the target text:

Source text (p.70): *This value represents the level where 200 shocks/second are present.*

Target text: *Giá trị này biểu thị cho mức 200 xung/giây.*

In contrast to the omission, the translator added linguistic items to the source sentences to make them more authentic to the readers. For example, she created the phrase "typical (*amplitude*) rise time" and "(*as little as*) a couple of microseconds", and the sentences were more intelligible to the audience:

Source text (p.42): *Typical values for the speed of the wavefront in steel are 5000 m/s and typical rise time for an elastic wave is a couple of microseconds up to several decades of microseconds.*

Target text: *Giá trị đặc trưng cho tốc độ truyền sóng này trong thép là 5000m/s và thời gian tăng biên độ điển hình của sóng chỉ từ vài tới vài chục phần triệu giây.*

In general, the translator stated that she had deep understanding of both source and target languages (Byrne, 2014), and she consulted the electrical engineers at the company for expertise in the field (Olohan, 2015). In the translator's viewpoint, the concept of culture in technical translation should be technical knowledge or target language making the target text more accessible and intelligible to target readers without distorting source texts. To produce target text close to meeting the needs of target readers, the translator applied domestication strategies to translate nearly 8% of the technical source text (Nguyen & Nguyen, 2021) through the transference of typical features of technical language in source text and characterized technical knowledge to target text.

(ii) *The target text should reflect the importance and internal connections between source text and target text*

Sharing the perspective with the Skopos theorist Vermeer (1984, as cited in Du, 2012) about fidelity rule in translation, the translator answered the interview question about the cases in which she decided what domestication strategies were used. Her answering explanations described in the first theme above emphasized the roles of both source text and target text in communicating understandable instructions, guidelines and manuals in electrical engineering (Du, 2012) to the engineers at the given company since the translator followed the translation specifications published by the company as indicated in the "loyalty rule" (Nord, 2001, as cited in Yang, 2010). The translator further elaborated the fidelity rule of Skopos theory in her domestication of the electrical engineering document in balancing among meanings of source text listed by Koller (1979:188-189, cited in Byrne, 2014): denotational meaning, connotational meaning, textual norms, pragmatic meaning, and linguistic form. To achieve the electrical engineers' understanding of technical language and follow-up practices, the translator focused more on the practicality of target text and thus on its pragmatic meaning in addition to its textual meaning. The translator sometimes omitted incohesive words to avoid redundancies and complexity of target text; for example, she translated "a tuned transducer sensitive to shock pulses" as "máy cảm biến nhạy với xung sốc" without adding the meaning of the word "tuned" ("được điều khiển") in the translation. She recommended that translated text should communicate target audience's desires and expectations.

(iii) *The target text should reflect the translator's translative intention and self-awareness of her roles in her practices*

Translators have their own translative intention in their practices because of thorough investigation of target audience's demands, desires, levels of expertise and others. In this research, the translator said in her interview that she worked for the company where she had formal information of target audience's profiles including their job descriptions and their needs of target text. Thus, she flexibly applied different principles relevantly to the company's translation specifications and her professional intention to produce a practice target text to the electrical engineers. For example, she

domesticated the phrase in source text, which is “BPFO”, an acronym of “Ball Pass Frequency Outer race”, by adding another phrase to the acronym to form a full explanation of the term: “Frequency at which the ball goes through of outer race”.

What is more, the translator in this study always collaborated closely with the electrical engineers in domesticating the document to make it as close as she could to support their operating, maintaining, and repairing work of a new machine called “Shock Pulse Transducer” at the company. It is obvious that she plays a mediating role between the author of source text and the target readers as mentioned in Wang (2014). Their work helps promote intercultural communication and exchange, bridging the gap between working and thinking styles of engineers described in the documents and those of partners in the company.

(iv) The translator must apply underlying fundamental concepts in functional translation, translation theories and translation strategies including domestication ones

Applying translation strategies by Wang (2014), the translator shared that she usually relied on free translation at the expense of the form of source language as she paid more attention to forms and meanings of instructions and guidelines in the translated manual so that the translated text seems more accessible to the target electrical engineers. She suggested the use of specific domestication strategies be relevant to linguistic features of target language in the translated text.

The translator defined domestication as liberal translation (Yang, 2010) as it enables target text to reach the electrical engineers with practical knowledge of maintaining and repairing electrical facilities at the company. Therefore, this translation strategy helps target text function relevantly for the target audience and purpose of using the translated text as stated in Skopos rule by Du (2012).

(v) The translator should base on readers' demands in translation of technical documents

The translator in the study did her work with a clear image of target readers. Thus, in her interview, she said that she wanted the translated text to meet the electrical engineers' needs of understanding target text with instructions and operating manuals, technical specifications of a new product line called “Shock Pulse Transducer.”. Her knowledge of target audience including skilled and well-educated Vietnamese electrical engineers at a technical company in Vietnam is helpful for her to have a relevant translative intention. In this case, the notion of the target audience motivated the translator to do her work and create target text useful for the audience.

5. Implications and conclusion

Like the translation of any documents, translating technical documents should be purposeful and communicative to target readers. This specificity drives the translator to take translational actions and apply relevant strategies to produce most relevant target text to target audience. Through the findings of the research, the following implications are proposed for the translator of technical source text. First, the translator should have thorough understanding and knowledge of both source and target language, translation theories and subject matter. They can select appropriate translation strategies, use relevant linguistic terms and deal with mismatch in language and culture of two texts so that they can make target text accessible and useful to specific target audience. Second, the translator must collect necessary data of target readers' demands, objectives of using translated documents to decide on appropriate translation strategies to achieve the goals. In this research, the priority is to obtain the readability and understandability of target text through domestication of source text using such strategies as paraphrasing, adapting, adding relevant concepts, deleting redundancies of linguistic features in source text. Third, the translator should notice the importance and relationship between source text and target text based on their communicative functions rather than forms.

In conclusion, applying translation strategies like domestication helps improve coherence of technical target text to target readers, highlighting the vital role of the audience in the translation process. However, the translator should balance between external and internal factors, linguistic and culture transfer in practices so that they can create translated text which meets technical target

readers' needs without distortion or causing misunderstanding of cultural values and nature of translation as a profession.

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Bản địa hóa trong dịch thuật tài liệu kỹ thuật điện tử quan điểm của lý thuyết mục đích

Tóm tắt: Phiên dịch viên luôn cố gắng tạo ra bản dịch gần với đối tượng người đọc dù họ dịch tài liệu thông thường hay tài liệu kỹ thuật. Các biên dịch viên luôn có Skopos hay mục tiêu trong khi thực hành công việc của họ nhằm giảm những điểm khác biệt trong tài liệu gốc và truyền đạt nội dung thông tin phù hợp với người đọc. Dựa trên nguyên tắc này, nghiên cứu được tiến hành nhằm tìm hiểu mục tiêu của biên dịch viên trong việc áp dụng sáu chiến lược bản địa hóa bộ tài liệu điện tử để kỹ sư điện có thể hiểu chính xác nội dung chuyên môn và thực hành các thao tác liên quan trong công việc của họ. Việc tìm hiểu mục đích sử dụng sáu chiến lược bản địa hóa của biên dịch viên trong nghiên cứu này được thực hiện dựa trên cơ sở lý thuyết mục đích (Skopos) do Hans J. Vermeer đề xuất tại Đức vào những năm 1970. Số liệu thu thập từ bài phỏng vấn biên dịch viên về lý do áp dụng sáu chiến lược bản địa hóa ở cấp độ từ vựng, cụm và câu. Kết quả phân tích số liệu cho thấy biên dịch viên đã cân nhắc các yếu tố về sự dịch chuyển về ngôn ngữ và văn hóa trong tài liệu nguồn và tài liệu đích, các thành tố trong dịch bản địa hóa và lý luận dịch thuật. Nói cách khác, biên dịch viên đã có Skopos hay đã xác định mục tiêu cụ thể trong quá trình bản địa hóa tài liệu kỹ thuật phù hợp với đối tượng người đọc. Bên cạnh đó, một số đề xuất rút ra từ nghiên cứu này sẽ giúp ích cho quá trình việc đào tạo biên dịch viên tương lai.

Từ khóa: Lý thuyết mục đích trong dịch thuật (Skopos); tính mục đích trong dịch thuật; tính phù hợp trong dịch thuật; chiến lược bản địa hóa; dịch thuật tài liệu kỹ thuật.