Traditional Translation in a Positive Light

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Abstract. The paper focuses on the application of translation as a means to check comprehension or to convey the meaning of what is taught. Translation has to be incorporated in language learning activities alongside with a wide range of commonly recognized ones, e.g. vocabulary development, comprehension, listening, writing, reading for gist, etc. In translation the learners are encouraged to use the language creatively by paraphrasing, guessing as well as simplifying which facilitates understanding. They are also exposed to the two language systems if they are made to evaluate and explain the translated version as well as substantiate the reasons for their choices. We have analyzed some aspects of translation covering several grammatical and lexical forms (e.g. Passive, Non-finite verbs, Compound nouns) which might be troublesome for understanding. On the other hand, the teacher will also know better what the real teaching problems are and can better provide coping with them as he/she has got an insight into the linguistic problems involved. This approach is based on extensive classroom observation and experience.