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Ni Putu Ayu Kartika Sari Dewi ¹ Kadek Ayu Kartika Septiana² Ngurah Artha Yoga Pratama³ Ni Putu Wulantari⁴ I Made Suamba⁵ TRANSLATION IN DIFFERENT REGISTER
TEXT: A CONTEMPORARY AND
PEDAGOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Abstract

This study investigates the integration of register variation in translation pedagogy, emphasizing the relevance of multimodal awareness and context-based teaching approaches. Register, which is defined through the components of field, tenor, and mode, plays a crucial role in shaping meaning and guiding translators' decisions across different genres and text types. The growing diversity of contemporary texts, ranging from academic articles to informal digital content, requires translation students to adapt their linguistic and stylistic strategies according to communicative purpose and audience expectations. This study employs a qualitative literature review to examine recent developments in translation theory and instructional practice, highlighting the need for a more adaptive and responsive teaching framework. It proposes a pedagogical model that includes genre-sensitive translation tasks, multimodal translation projects, comparative analysis of texts with different registers, and reflective commentary as instructional tools to enhance translation competence. These strategies help students develop not only linguistic accuracy but also critical awareness of cultural context, appropriate tone, and functional meaning. The findings support the conclusion that effective translation instruction must extend beyond literal meaning, encouraging learners to approach texts with both contextual sensitivity and practical awareness. This research contributes to the development of a register-focused and practice-oriented model for translator education.

Keywords: Genre-Based Teaching; Multimodal Texts; Register Variation; Translation Pedagogy; Translation Strategies.

INTRODUCTION

In the evolving field of translation studies, register awareness has become an essential component of translator competence, particularly in pedagogical settings where students must learn to translate across diverse communicative situations. Register, defined as the set of linguistic features associated with specific contexts of use namely, field (subject matter), tenor (participant relationships), and mode (channel of communication), it determines how meaning is shaped and conveyed in different genres (Halliday & Hasan, 1985:38). As texts increasingly span academic, technical, professional, and digital domains, translation pedagogy must equip learners with the ability to recognize and reproduce these context-specific linguistic patterns accurately.

Translation today is no longer viewed as the mechanical substitution of words between languages but as a dynamic, context-sensitive process of meaning-making. Translators are expected not only to ensure semantic equivalence but also to maintain stylistic coherence, functional relevance, and cultural appropriateness. These demands are particularly critical in translating specific text types. For example, translating an academic journal abstract requires formal vocabulary, passive constructions, and discipline-specific terminology, whereas a

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product review on a social media platform may rely on conversational tone, idiomatic language, and visual-emotive cues like emojis and hashtags.

This growing complexity calls for the inclusion of multimodal pedagogy in translation teaching. Contemporary texts are frequently multimodal in nature, combining written language with images, icons, sound, spatial design, and interactive features. Translators must therefore be trained to interpret how meaning is distributed across multiple semiotic resources and how register interacts not only with linguistic choices but also with visual and digital modes. For instance, translating an infographic about public health involves understanding both the scientific register of the written content and the communicative function of the visual layout.

Pedagogically, translation in different registers supports learners in developing genre awareness and discourse sensitivity. Different genres demand different register features: a legal contract requires precision, neutrality, and rigid formality; a technical manual demands clarity, consistency, and instructional language; while a personal blog post allows for expressive, casual, and emotionally charged language. Teaching students how to shift between these registers helps them avoid one-size-fits-all translations and encourages critical decision-making based on communicative intent.

To respond to these varied demands, translation pedagogy must integrate strategies such as guided genre analysis, side-by-side comparison of texts in different registers, and scaffolded translation assignments across genres. Multimodal translation tasks further provide opportunities for learners to experiment with tone, layout, and mode in ways that reflect real-world challenges. In addition, incorporating reflective practices, such as translation commentary or journal writing. It helps students articulate their register choices and justify them within the target cultural and communicative context.

Moreover, embracing translanguaging practices within the classroom can strengthen learners' ability to move fluidly between registers and language systems. Translanguaging encourages students to draw on their full linguistic repertoire when analyzing and constructing translations, enhancing their adaptability and intercultural sensitivity (Brook, 2022). This is especially valuable when translating culturally embedded texts, such as traditional narratives or community messages, where register is closely tied to social identity and communicative norms.

In response to these theoretical and practical considerations, this study aims to develop a pedagogical framework that integrates register-based instruction, multimodal awareness, and targeted strategies for translating specific text types. By aligning translation education with the real-world demands of register variation and multimodal literacy, the framework supports the development of well-rounded, context-aware translators capable of navigating the linguistic and cultural diversity of global communication.

METHOD

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research design with a classroom-based orientation to explore how translation students engage with register-sensitive translation tasks. The focus of the research was to investigate how the integration of field, tenor, and mode dimensions influenced students' translation choices across various types of texts. By emphasizing contextual appropriateness and functional variation in meaning transfer, the study aimed to assess the pedagogical relevance of register-based instruction in higher education.

This study adopts a qualitative research design in the form of a systematic literature review. The purpose of this methodology is to explore and synthesize scholarly perspectives on the pedagogical implementation of translation across different registers. Rather than collecting empirical data from classroom settings, the study focuses on analyzing existing theoretical frameworks, pedagogical models, and applied strategies documented in contemporary translation and language education literature.

The analytical procedure involved thematic coding and categorization of recurring concepts related to teaching strategies, theoretical underpinnings, and practical classroom applications. The review was structured to identify both convergences and gaps in current research, thereby enabling the formulation of a pedagogical framework that integrates register awareness with translation instruction. The results of this literature review serve as the conceptual foundation for proposing strategies that can be adapted in translator education

programs, particularly in contexts where students are expected to handle texts of varying formality, modality, and communicative intent.

DISCUSSION

The following discussion elaborates on the integration of translation, register and strategy for pedagogical.

3.1 Multimodal Pedagogy

The integration of multimodal pedagogy in translation instruction reflects a growing awareness that meaning is not constructed solely through linguistic elements but also through a combination of visual, auditory, spatial, and gestural modes. In the context of translation studies, this pedagogical orientation recognizes that contemporary texts often involve more than words on a page; they encompass images, icons, layout structures, colors, sound effects, and body language, especially in digital and audiovisual genres. According to Jiang and Hafner (2024:5), students must develop multimodal literacy to navigate the complex semiotic resources embedded in real-world texts. For instance, translating a promotional video or a social media post requires not only linguistic transfer but also sensitivity to how visuals and sounds contribute to communicative intent and audience reception.

In the classroom, multimodal pedagogy can be implemented through tasks that require students to analyze and translate materials such as infographics, subtitled videos, digital comics, and transcribed spoken dialogue. These activities encourage learners to consider how different modes interact to produce meaning and how those modes may be adapted or reinterpreted in the target language and culture. Moreover, by engaging students in multimodal translation tasks, instructors can foster critical reflection on the affordances and limitations of each semiotic mode. This approach not only enhances students' translation competence but also prepares them for the multimodal nature of communication in professional translation settings where visual-verbal alignment and audience engagement are essential.

3.2 Translation in Different Register for Pedagogical Purposes

The integration of register variation into translation pedagogy serves as a strategic approach to fostering students' sensitivity to language as a socially situated practice. Registers are characterized by distinct configurations of linguistic choices that are shaped by contextual parameters such as field, tenor, and mode (Halliday and Hasan, 1985:38). In the context of language teaching, engaging students with texts that reflect a range of communicative styles including academic, bureaucratic, conversational, and colloquial discourse enables them to identify how changes in register affect meaning, formality, tone, and sentence structure. This type of awareness is essential for the translation process, in which the transfer of meaning involves more than a simple substitution of words; rather, it requires the translator to preserve functional equivalence that aligns with the communicative purpose of the source text within the target language and cultural context.

From a pedagogical perspective, designing translation tasks based on differences in register provides valuable opportunities for learners to engage with genre-specific discourse conventions and to develop practical strategies for adapting messages to the needs of different target audiences. For example, translating a scholarly article necessitates terminological accuracy, formal style, and adherence to academic standards, whereas translating an informal blog post calls for a more idiomatic, flexible, and accessible register. Through comparative analysis and targeted instruction, students become more adept at identifying both the linguistic features and pragmatic functions that define each register. This teaching approach supports broader educational goals such as promoting critical language awareness, enhancing learner agency, and strengthening sociolinguistic competence in translation activities.

The application of register-focused translation instruction encourages reflective practice and the development of metacognitive skills. When students are asked to explain and justify their translation decisions, especially in terms of stylistic adaptation, tone consistency, and lexical appropriateness, they gain deeper insight into the contextual dimensions of meaning-making. Structured assignments that incorporate guided analysis, collaborative discussion, and peer feedback can further support this process. In doing so, the classroom becomes a space for cultivating translation competence that integrates linguistic precision with contextual awareness.

Ultimately, translation pedagogy that incorporates register variation equips students with the analytical tools and communicative flexibility required to navigate the complex demands of multilingual and cross-cultural translation environments.

3.3 Translating in Different Register

Translation strategies must be adapted to the communicative characteristics of each register. The following subsections present strategic approaches to translating texts written in various registers including informal, formal, academic, technical, and digital communication. Each register requires a different set of linguistic considerations to ensure that meaning, tone, and function are preserved in the target language.

3.3.1 Translating Informal Register

Informal texts are commonly marked by a conversational tone, the use of contractions, idiomatic expressions, and direct address to the audience. To translate texts in this register, translators are encouraged to prioritize natural flow and proximity to the target reader. Strategies such as modulation (altering the tone or viewpoint), explicitation (clarifying implied meanings), and pragmatic equivalence are particularly effective. Maintaining engagement with the audience also requires awareness of cultural conventions in the target language, including appropriate colloquial vocabulary. When translating dialogues or lifestyle texts such as parenting articles, the focus should be on accessibility and relatability rather than on literal word-for-word equivalence.

	gak perlu panik cil susah makan.
	nak-anak emang
_	di mana mereka
	makanan. Yang
1 1 1	nda tetap sabar,
	nad tetap sabar, nakanan yang sehat
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hidup atau b	log parenting)
	eed to panic if your
little one re	fuses to eat. Kids
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	xy with food. What
	at you stay patient
	fering healthy and
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Register Analysis	
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	s to the domain of
everyday	
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	and supportive.
	ositions herself as

3.3.2 Translating Formal Register

Formal texts, such as legal statements, public policies, and institutional documents, require a high degree of accuracy, consistency, and an impersonal tone. In this register, translators should apply precise language and avoid informal expressions. Literal translation is often appropriate, provided that it adheres to the syntactic and stylistic norms of the target language. Modal verbs and passive constructions are frequently used to convey authority and neutrality. It is important to avoid contractions, use respectful phrasing, and maintain consistent formality throughout the translated text.

audience.

vocabulary suited for a general

SL	Berdasarkan Peraturan Menteri
	Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan
	Republik Indonesia Nomor 45
	Tahun 2019 tentang Pedoman
	Organisasi Mahasiswa, setiap

	perguruan tinggi wajib
	memastikan kegiatan organisasi
	kemahasiswaan berlangsung
	sesuai dengan prinsip
	demokratis, transparan, dan
	akuntabel.
	Segala bentuk pelanggaran
	terhadap ketentuan tersebut
	akan dikenakan sanksi
	administratif sesuai dengan
	peraturan perundang-undangan
	yang berlaku.
TL	
IL	Pursuant to the Regulation of
	the Minister of Education and
	Culture of the Republic of
	Indonesia Number 45 of 2019
	concerning Guidelines for
	Student Organizations, all
	higher education institutions are
	obliged to ensure that student
	organizational activities are
	conducted in accordance with
	the principles of democracy,
	transparency, and
	accountability.
	Any violation of these
	provisions shall be subject to
	administrative sanctions in
	accordance with the applicable
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formal and distant. The tone is serious and official. There are no personal pronouns. The writer gives instructions, and the reader is expected to follow them Language The source language Features (Indonesian) target and language (English) texts both exhibit features of a formal institutional register. elements such as modality (wajib memastikan \rightarrow are obliged to ensure) and passive constructions (akan dikenakan $sanksi \rightarrow shall be subject to$ sanctions) are accurately maintained, preserving impersonal and authoritative tone. Both versions use nominalization (e.g., pelanggaran, sanksi, peraturan violation, sanctions, regulations) and abstract nouns (e.g., demokratis, transparan, akuntabel \rightarrow democracy, transparency, accountability) to convey legal and administrative concepts. Complex sentence structures and cohesive legal phrases like sesuai dengan and in accordance with reflect the original's formal style. Overall, the translation successfully mirrors the linguistic and rhetorical features of the source text while aligning with the conventions of formal English legal discourse.

3.3.3 Translation Academic Register

Academic writing is characterized by logical organization, evidence-based argumentation, and formal vocabulary. When translating academic texts, translators must follow discipline-specific conventions including the use of nominalization, transition markers, and consistent terminology. Intertextual references and citation styles should be preserved and adapted according to the norms of the target academic culture. Translators should also pay attention to coherence, paragraph structure, and tone, ensuring the final text meets scholarly expectations in both content and form.

SL	Pembelajaran	berbasis	proyek
	merupakan	pendekatan	yang
	menekankan	keterlibatan	aktif
	mahasiswa	dalam peny	elesaian
	masalah nyata	a melalui ko	laborasi
	dan integras:	i berbagai	disiplin

clauses and passive constructions. Additionally, the TL follows

	ic conver			
	rmal transi			
terms	relevant	to	educat	ion
research	1.			

3.3.4 Translating Technical Register

Technical texts include user manuals, scientific procedures, and instructional guides. These documents emphasize clarity, precision, and standardization. Translators working in this register must prioritize unambiguous terminology and maintain consistency across related texts or within a larger documentation system. The use of computer-assisted translation tools and terminology databases can support accuracy and efficiency. Additionally, sentence structures in technical writing tend to favor clarity over stylistic variation, making conciseness and factual presentation essential.

3.3.5 Translating Digital and Multimodal Register

Digital texts, including social media posts, website content, and visual media such as infographics or advertisements, require translators to work across multiple semiotic systems. In these contexts, linguistic meaning interacts with layout, color, icons, sound, and image. Translators must consider how these non-verbal features contribute to the overall message. Strategies such as adapting the tone, choosing culturally appropriate equivalents for visual cues, and maintaining the functional purpose of the content are essential. The degree of formality may vary significantly depending on the platform and the audience, which requires translators to exercise stylistic flexibility and cultural sensitivity when rendering the message into the target language.

SL	Lagi stres dan susah tidur?
~ —	Coba relaksasi dengan aroma
	lavender dari diffuser kami.
	Lebih rileks, tidur lebih nyenyak, dan
	bangun lebih segar!
	Klik link di bio buat info lengkap &
	promo spesial hari ini!
TL	Feeling stressed and can't sleep?
	Try relaxing with our lavender-
	scented diffuser.
	Feel calmer, sleep better, and wake
	up refreshed!
	Tap the link in our bio for full info
	and today's special offer!
Register A	
Field	The topic is personal wellness and
	product promotion. The text
	promotes a product (aromatherapy
	diffuser) designed to help users
	manage stress and improve sleep
	quality. The content is persuasive and
	commercial, common in social media
	marketing.
Mode	The relationship is informal and
	friendly. The writer (brand) speaks
	directly to the audience using second-
	person address ("you") and emojis to
	create a casual, engaging tone. The
	audience is general consumers,
	particularly those who use Instagram
	or similar platforms.

T	TP1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Tenor	The mode is digital, multimodal, and
	interactive. The text is written but
	designed for mobile screen viewing,
	accompanied by emojis, hyperlinks,
	and possibly images or videos. It
	encourages immediate response
	(clicking a link) and uses features of
	spoken language in written form.
Language	Both the source and target texts use
Features	informal and conversational
	expressions such as "lagi stres" in the
	source language and "feeling
	stressed" in the target language.
	There is consistent use of direct
	address (implied "kamu" in
	Indonesian; "you" in English),
	imperative structures ("Coba
	relaksasi", "Try relaxing"), and short,
	simple sentences for clarity and
	engagement. The use of emojis
	enhances emotional tone and visual
	appeal, reflecting the multimodal
	nature of digital communication. The
	translator maintains the marketing
	intent and adapts cultural expressions
	(e.g., "klik link di bio" becomes "tap
	the link in our bio") to match
	platform-specific usage in English-
	speaking contexts. Both versions
	1 0
	prioritize reader engagement, tone consistency, and visual-textual
	3 ?
	alignment.

3.4 Teaching Strategies for Translation in Different Register

In order to support students in developing competence in translating across registers, educators must implement teaching strategies that emphasize both linguistic accuracy and contextual appropriateness. This section presents four pedagogical approaches that can be adapted in translation classrooms: genre awareness, multimodal engagement, contrastive analysis, and learner-centered tasks. These approaches aim to cultivate students' ability to analyze, compare, and render meaning in a manner appropriate to the social function and communicative setting of the text.

3.4.1 Focus on Genre Awareness and Register Recognition

One of the foundational strategies in teaching translation across registers is fostering students' awareness of genre conventions and the registers that operate within them. Each genre, such as academic articles, news reports, advertisements, or blog posts carries its own stylistic and functional expectations. By introducing students to genre-specific discourse features, educators can help them identify how register manifests through lexical choices, syntactic structure, and overall communicative tone. Translation tasks that involve multiple genres allow students to observe how field, tenor, and mode vary across contexts and how these variations must be reflected in the target language. This approach reinforces the link between text type, communicative purpose, and register-sensitive translation.

3.4.2 Focus on Multimodal and Real-World Texts

In contemporary communication, meaning is rarely constructed through language alone. Texts in the real world often incorporate images, layout, sound, and interactivity. Translation pedagogy must therefore prepare students to engage with multimodal texts, where registers may

be expressed through both verbal and visual modes. Tasks such as translating website content, public service announcements, infographics, or social media posts train students to analyze not only linguistic register but also visual tone, audience engagement strategies, and spatial organization. This strategy enhances students' readiness for professional translation scenarios in which multimodal competence and adaptability are essential.

3.4.3 Focus on Contrastive Analysis and Reflective Practice

Teaching register-sensitive translation is strengthened by the use of contrastive and reflective strategies. Contrastive analysis involves comparing texts with similar content but written in different registers. For example, students may compare a formal health article with an informal parenting blog on the same topic. Through side-by-side translation and class discussion, they learn how language is shaped by situational context. Paired with reflective practice, students are asked to document and explain their translation decisions in journals or commentary forms. This method supports metacognitive awareness and reinforces the principle that effective translation requires informed judgment, not just technical skill.

3.4.4 Focus on Learner Centered Pedagogy and Authentic Task

A learner-centered approach that integrates authentic tasks offers an effective way to engage students in meaningful translation experiences. Rather than relying on artificial exercises, instructors can assign real-world projects such as translating brochures, subtitling videos, adapting announcements for multiple audiences, or compiling register-based translation portfolios. These tasks provide students with ownership over their learning and expose them to the complexities of register variation in professional and community settings. By emphasizing authenticity and student agency, this strategy aligns well with communicative and functional models of language learning.

CONCLUSION

This study has highlighted the pedagogical significance of register awareness in translation instruction. By examining how different registers such as informal, formal, academic, technical, and digital forms influence language use and communicative purpose, the research emphasizes that translation is a context-sensitive activity that goes beyond the mere transfer of literal meaning. The integration of register-based instruction and multimodal pedagogy equips students with analytical tools and adaptive strategies that are essential for responding effectively to a wide range of textual demands in both print and digital environments.

Through concrete examples and classroom-oriented strategies, this paper has demonstrated that translation competence involves the ability to identify and reproduce stylistic and functional patterns that are appropriate for each genre and target audience. Teaching strategies such as contrastive register analysis, reflective commentary, multimodal translation tasks, and authentic project-based assignments foster not only linguistic accuracy but also sociolinguistic and cultural sensitivity. These findings support the development of a dynamic and practice-driven translation pedagogy that prepares learners to engage effectively in multilingual and multimodal global communication.

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