



The Architecture of Translation Studies

A Midterm Synthesis: From Antiquity's Debates to the Empirical Map

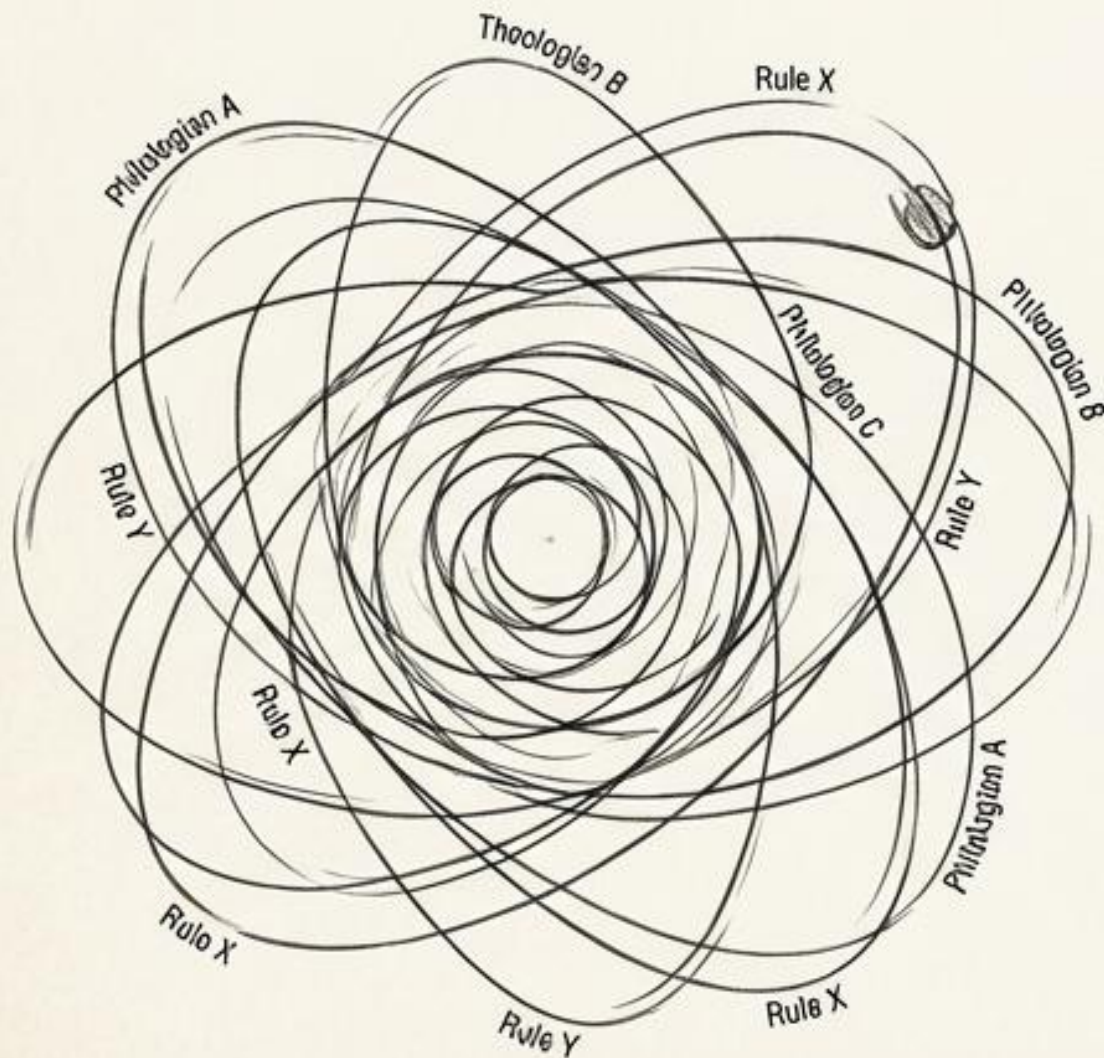
Comprehensive Review Guide for 2nd-Year Students | Çağ University

The Copernican Revolution of Translation

Core Concept: Science does not evolve through a slow accumulation of facts, but through sudden “Paradigm Shifts”—fundamental changes in how a discipline understands its core reality.

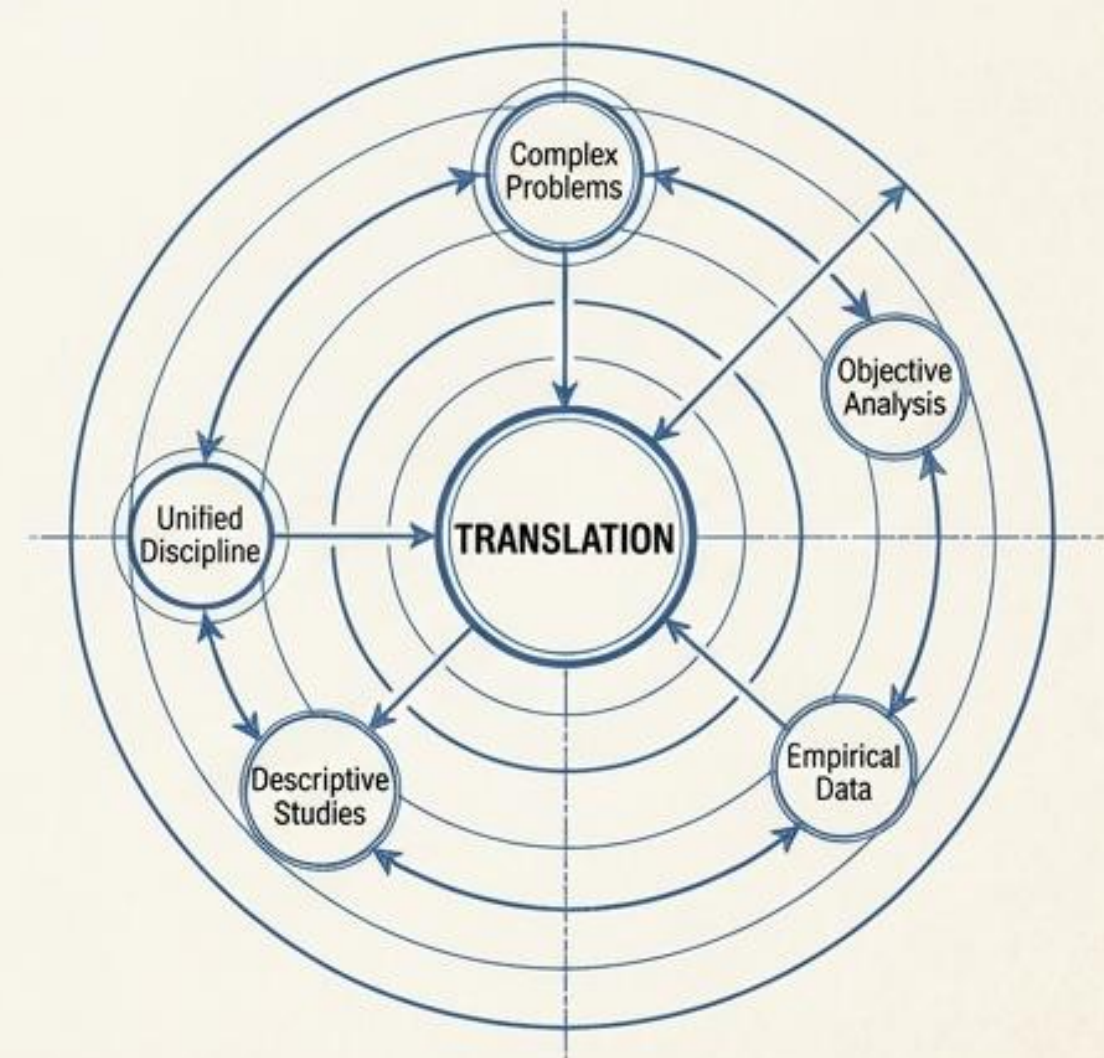
The Pre-Scientific Era

Old Paradigm (Prescriptive): Scattered philologists and theologians debating subjective rules of “good” translation.



The Empirical Era

New Paradigm (Descriptive): A unified empirical discipline focused objectively on the complex problems clustered around translating.



Antiquity's Foundational Debate



Word-for-Word

The literal approach to textual translation.

Sense-for-Sense

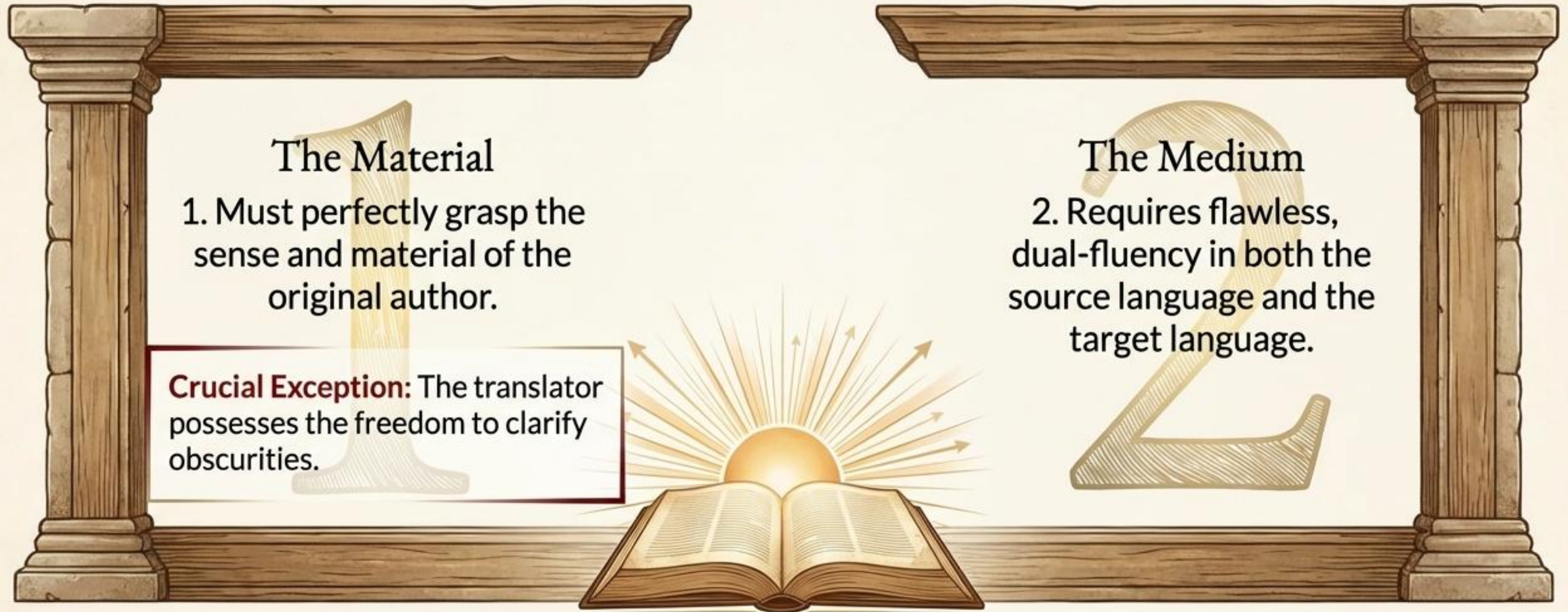
The free approach to adapting a text.

The Ideological Loop: The Septuagint Phenomenon



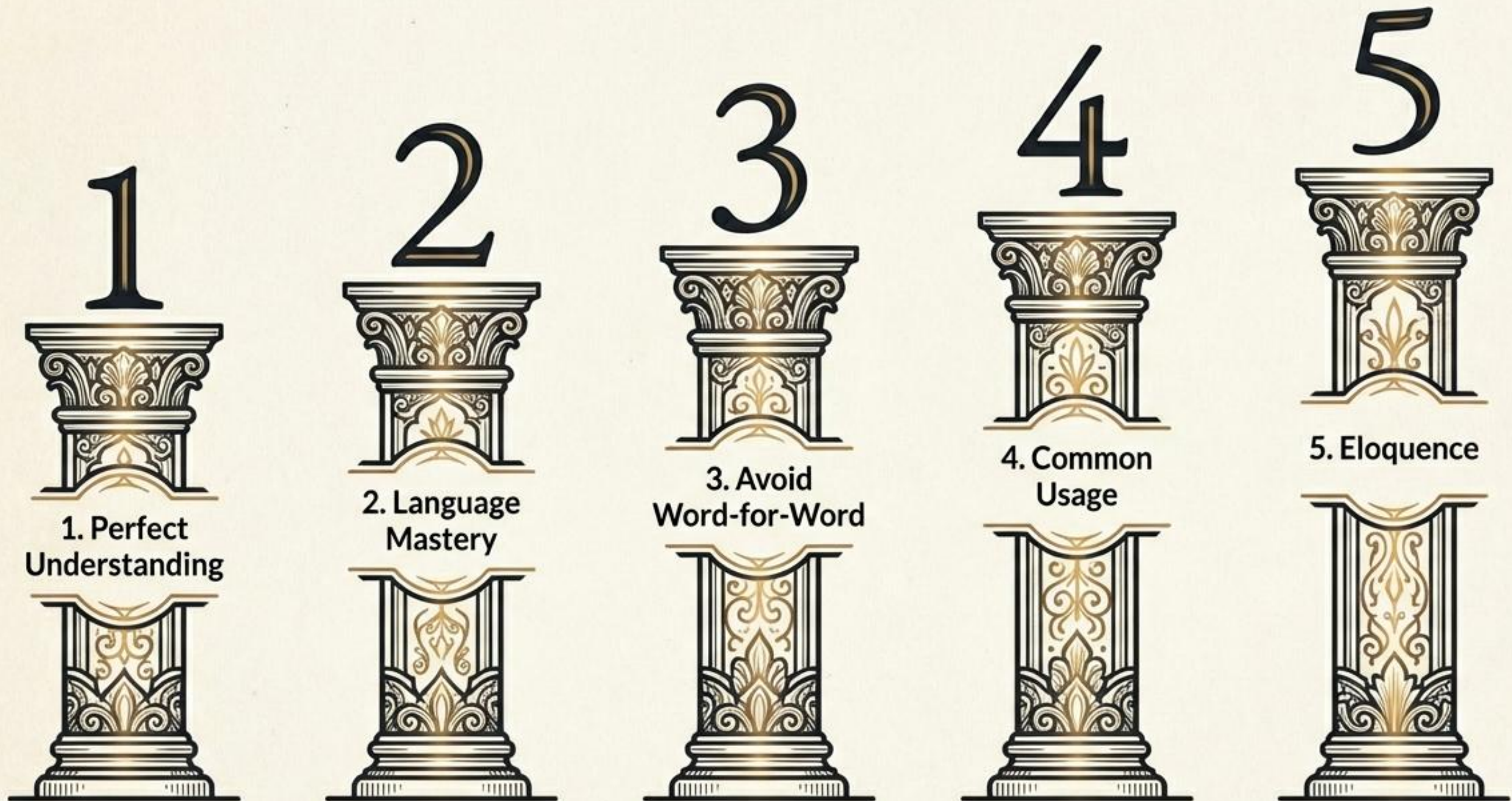
Takeaway: Ideological belief can erase the boundary between 'source text' and 'mere translation,' elevating it to a 'Sacred Original.'

The 16th Century: A Permanent Shift Toward the Reader



The Communicative Approach: Luther and Dolet permanently moved translation away from strict Church dogma. By prioritizing the reader's understanding, standardized vernaculars were born, making the translator the catalyst for mass literacy.

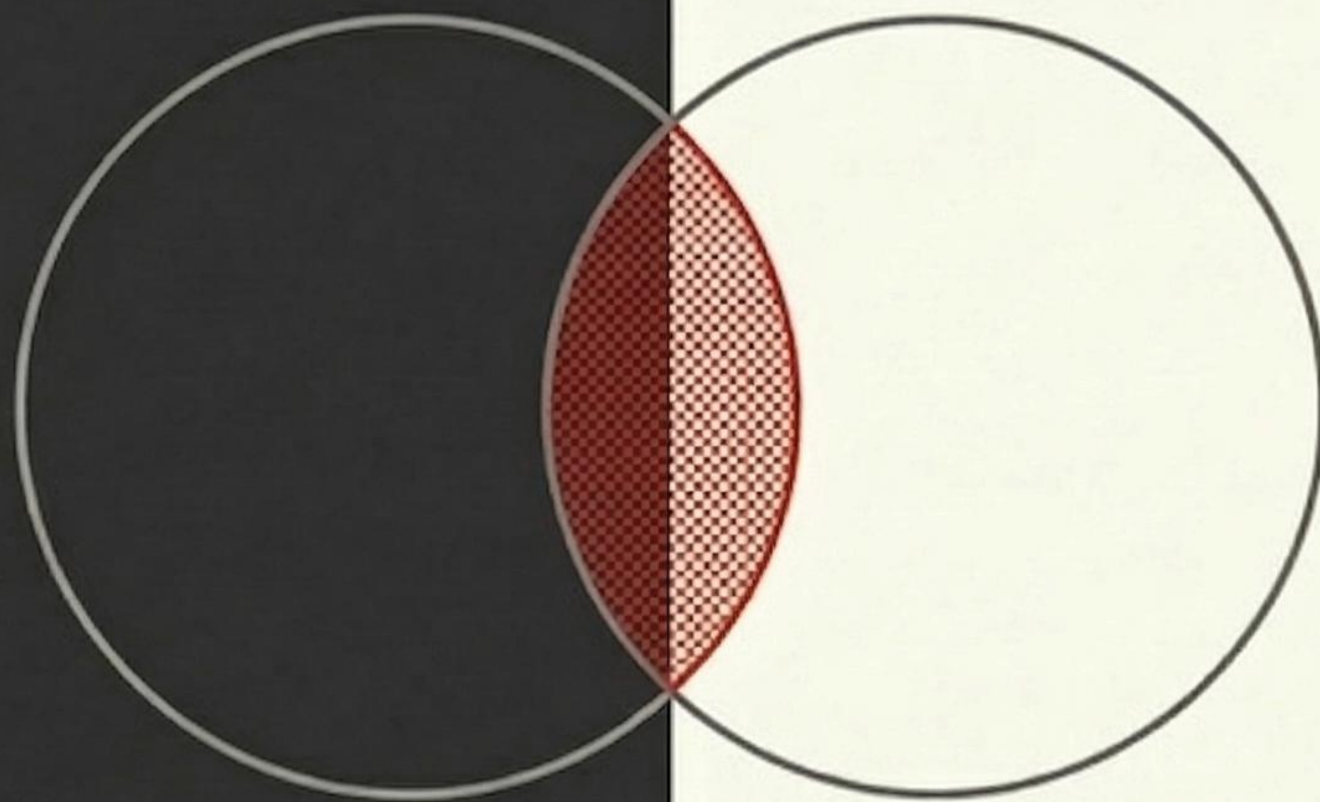
Dolet's 5 Principles of Translation



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Humboldt and the Mathematics of Impossibility

Language as a
static, finished
product
(the dead text).



Language as
a living,
dynamic act
of creation.

The Core Theorem: Because each language encapsulates a thoroughly unique worldview, a 1:1 perfect equivalence between two languages is fundamentally impossible.
Untranslatability is built into the architecture of language.

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Discarding the False Paths

Paraphrase (used in scholarship) and Imitation (used in arts) are “inventions of despair” that completely relinquish true translation

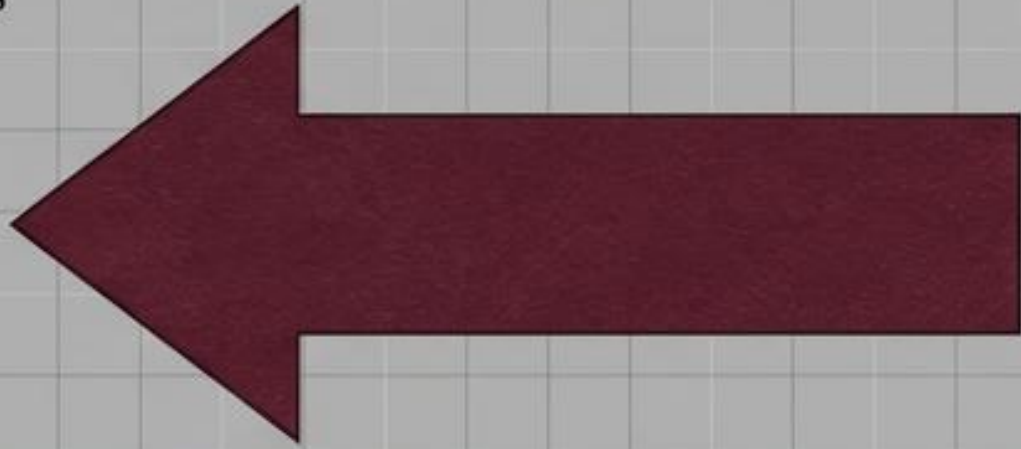
Paraphrase
(Used in Scholarship)

Imitation
(Used in the Arts)

Path A: Moving the Reader to the Writer
(Foreignization)

Path B: Moving the Writer to the Reader
(Domestication)

The Author's
World



The Reader's
World



The Author's
World



The Reader's
World



Mechanism: Transmitting a distinct
“feeling of foreignness.”

Mechanism: Scrupulous attention to the purity and
naturalness of the native language.

Goal: Compensate for the reader's lack of understanding
while keeping them acutely aware of the text's alien
origins.

Goal: Presenting the work as if the author originally
wrote it in the reader's native tongue, requiring zero
effort to confront foreignness.

The Evolution of Equivalence

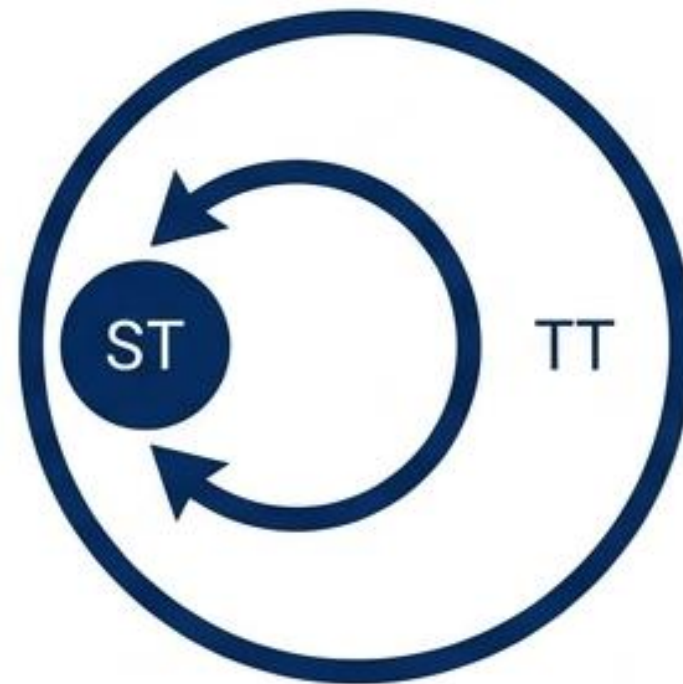
Group 1: Linguistic & System-Based (Catford & Kade)

Focus on structural mapping.
Priority: The Structure of the Text.



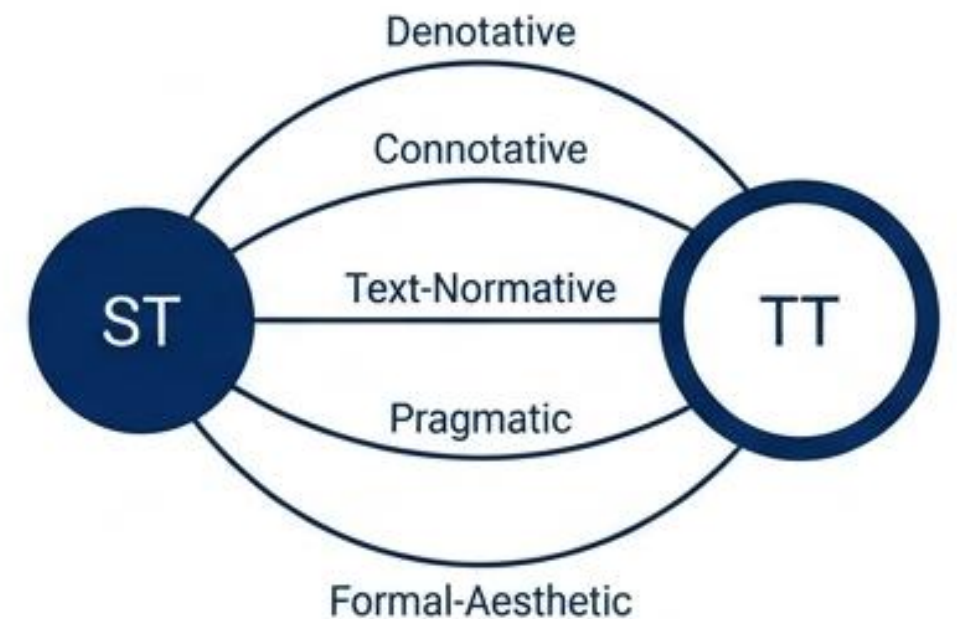
Group 2: Receptor & Effect-Based (Nida)

Focus on target audience reaction.
Priority: The Experience of the Reader.



Group 3: Multi-Dimensional (Koller)

Focus on contextual hierarchy.
Priority: The Total Contextual Environment.



Note: Translation theory evolved from prioritizing the structure of the text to prioritizing the experience of the reader, and finally to considering the full contextual environment.

The Linguistic Divide: Kade's Lexical Matrix

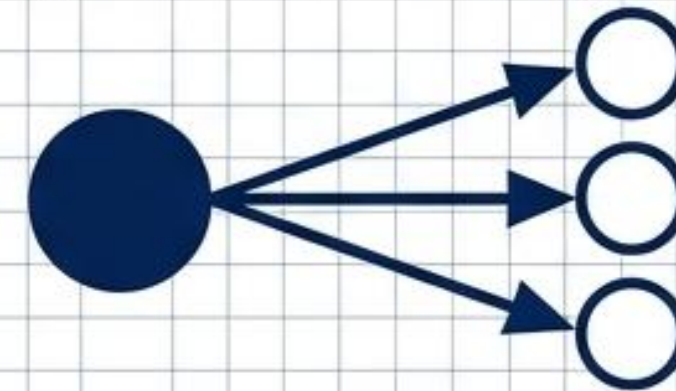
Total Equivalence (1:1)

Exact identical terms. High overlap in specialized terminology.



Facultative Equivalence (1:Many)

One Source Text word has multiple Target Text options depending on context.



Approximative Equivalence (1:Part)

The semantic fields of the words only partially overlap.



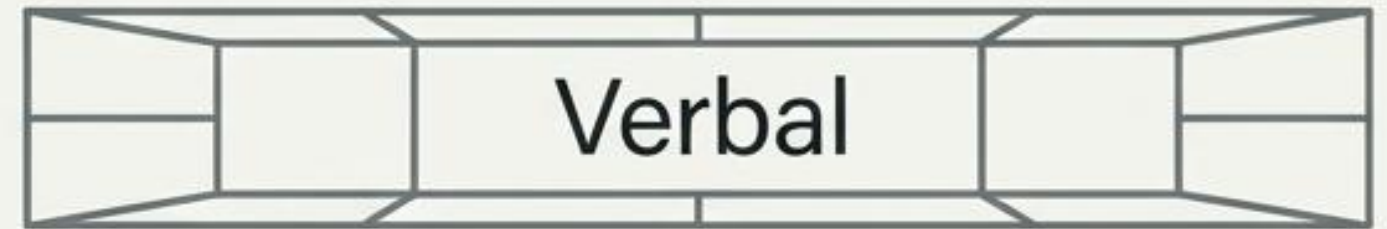
Null Equivalence (1:0)

No direct equivalent exists in the target language (culture-specific items).



Nida's Dynamic Equivalence: The Four Priorities

Contextual



Contextual consistency has priority over word-for-word concordance.

Dynamic



Dynamic equivalence (reader effect) has priority over formal correspondence.

Aural



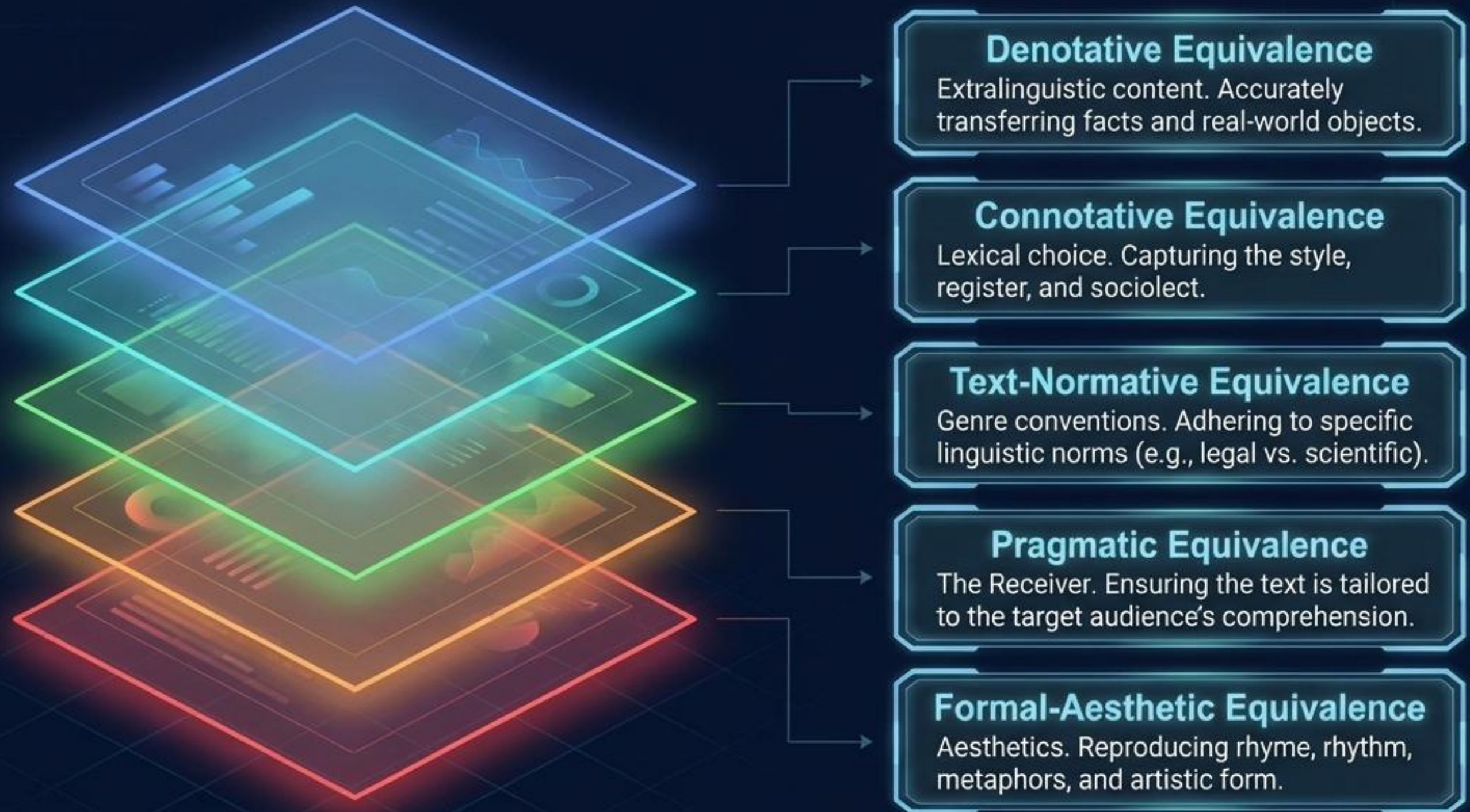
The heard form of language has priority over the written form.

Audience

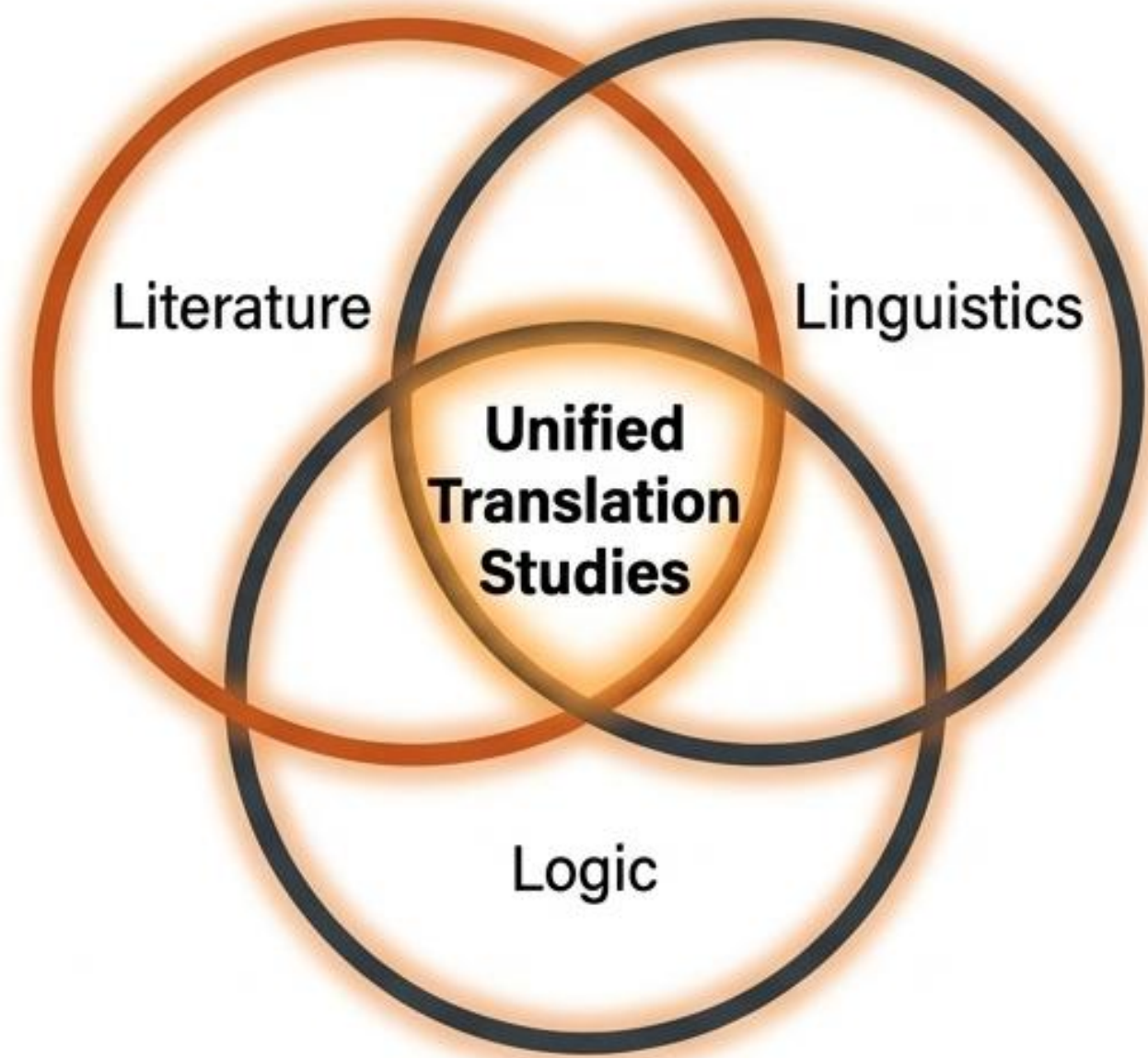


Forms acceptable to the intended audience have priority over traditionally prestigious forms.

Werner Koller's Multi-Dimensional Framework



The Name and Nature of Translation Studies



The Drive for Unification: Holmes united these adjacent fields to create a shared scientific terminology.

Pre-Holmes Era (Prescriptive)



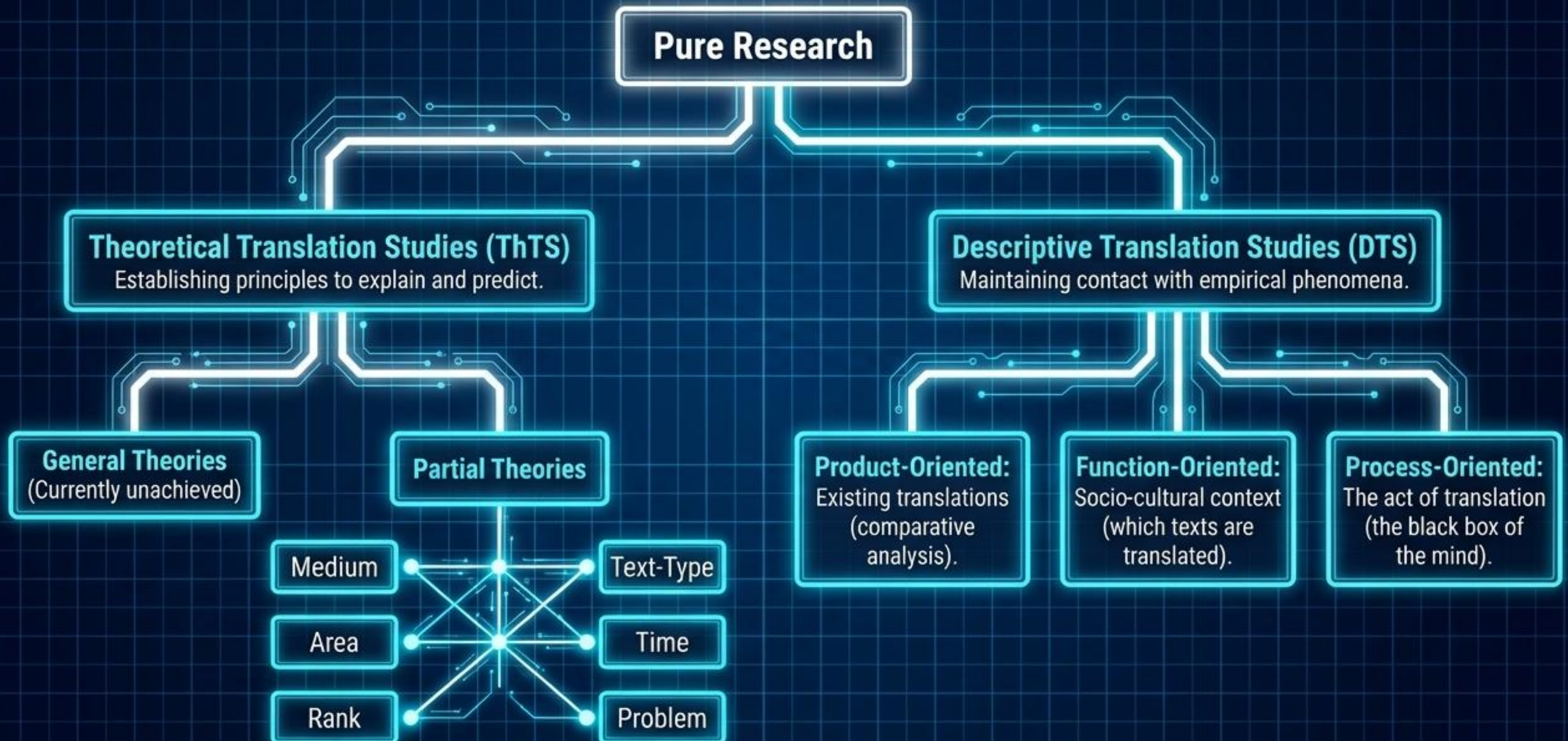
Enforcing rules.
Telling people *how* to translate.

Post-Holmes Era (Descriptive)



Observing phenomena.
Studying *how* translation actually happens.

The Holmes Map: Pure Research



The Holmes Map: Applied Research

The Stance: 'Helping the translator need not be a main aim of translation studies.' (Holmes, 1977). This was strict scientific separation: Of Use, Not of Light.

1 Translator Training

Teaching methods, curriculum planning, and testing.

2 Translation Aids

Lexicographical tools, dictionaries, specialized software.

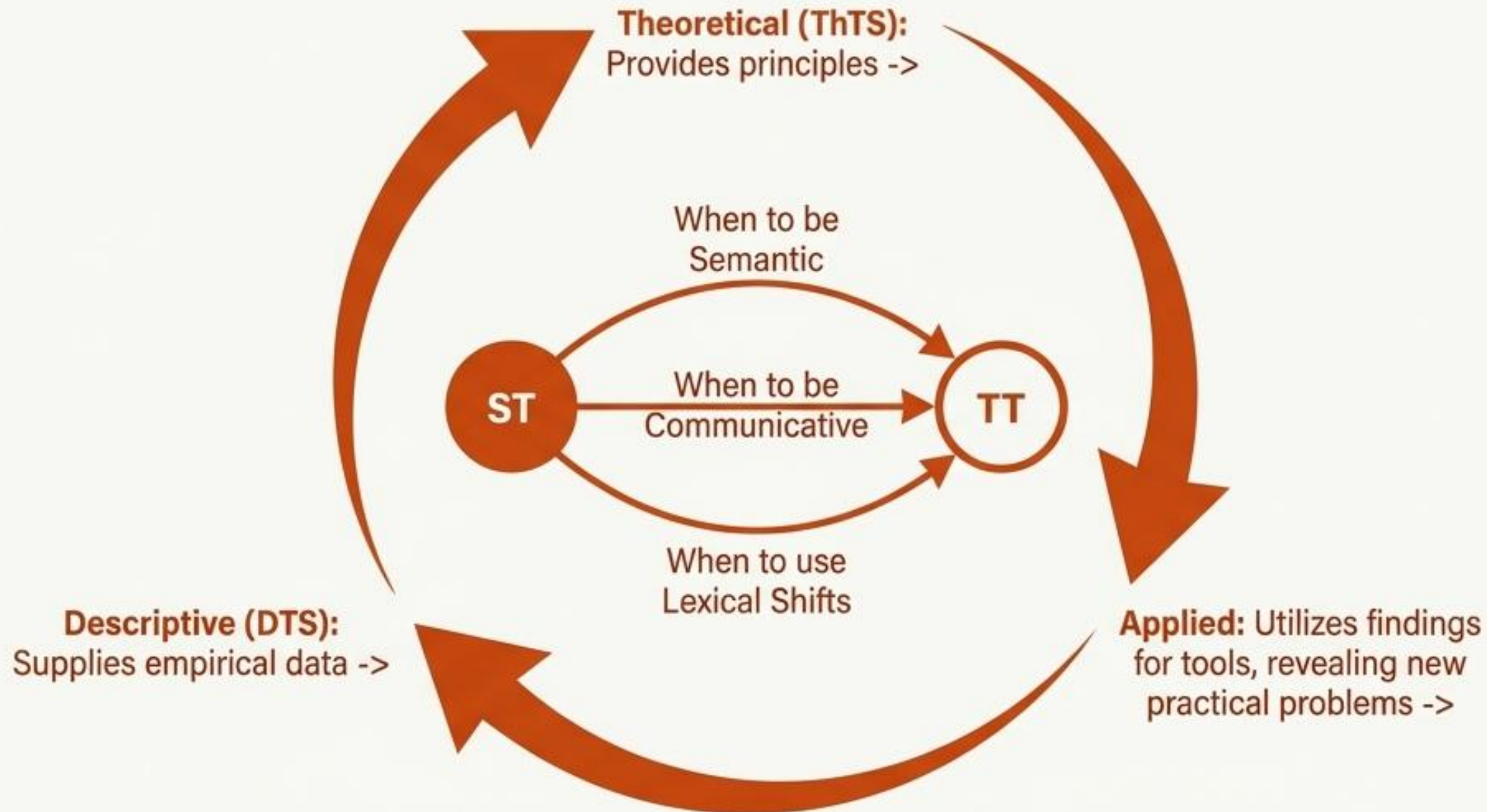
3 Translation Policy

Advising society on the role of translators and language learning.

4 Translation Criticism

Evaluating works empirically, elevating beyond impressionistic reviews.

The Dialectical Ecosystem



Midterm Takeaway: The Theoretical Toolkit

Equivalence is not a strict rule. Absolute identity is impossible. As an emerging professional, your job is to use this scientific framework to decide which type of equivalence serves the specific purpose of the text in front of you.