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TRANSLATION TECHNIQUE AND TRANSLATION METHOD FRAMEWORKS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITHIN TRANSLATION STUDIES

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the similarities and distinctions between translation methods and translation techniques to clarify their conceptual relationship in translation studies. Because these terms are frequently used interchangeably or ambiguously in the literature, the study establishes clearer conceptual boundaries and contributes to greater theoretical precision. Employing a qualitative comparative design through document analysis, the research analyzes 2 translation frameworks, translation methods proposed by Newmark and translation techniques proposed by Molina and Albir, to systematically compare the two concepts. The analysis identifies five major areas of similarity: orientation toward source language (SL) preservation, orientation toward target language (TL) naturalness, treatment of culture-specific elements, emphasis on meaning transfer rather than formal equivalence, and flexibility through translator intervention. The findings also demonstrate that, despite these shared characteristics, translation methods and translation techniques differ fundamentally in their analytical scope and function. Translation methods operate at the macro level, guiding the overall approach to an entire text, whereas translation techniques function at the micro level, addressing specific translation problems within individual linguistic units. This distinction advances existing knowledge by providing a more systematic conceptual framework for differentiating the two constructs while explaining their complementary roles in translation decision-making. The study is limited to a comparative analysis of theoretical literature and does not evaluate the application of methods and techniques in empirical translation practice.

Keywords: *translation methods, translation techniques, qualitative comparative research*

Introduction

Translation studies have evolved into a multidisciplinary field that examines how meaning is transferred across languages and cultures through a wide range of theoretical and practical approaches. Among the central concepts in this discipline are translation methods and translation techniques, both of which are essential for explaining translators' decision-making processes and for analyzing translated texts. Translation methods generally refer to the overall approach adopted throughout an entire text, whereas translation techniques describe localized procedures used to solve specific linguistic, cultural, or contextual problems during translation (Newmark, 1988; Molina & Albir, 2002). Together, these concepts influence translation quality, equivalence, and communicative effectiveness, making them fundamental components of translation theory, translation pedagogy, and professional translation practice. Consequently, a clear understanding of the relationship between translation methods and translation techniques is crucial for researchers, educators, students, and professional translators (Moorkens et al., 2018; Han et al., 2021).

Despite their importance, the distinction between translation methods and translation techniques remains conceptually ambiguous in the literature. Although Newmark (1988) clearly conceptualizes translation methods as text-level approaches and Molina and Albir (2002) describe translation techniques as micro-level procedures, subsequent studies frequently use these terms interchangeably or without explicit conceptual differentiation. Moreover, different scholars adopt varying terminologies and classification systems, creating inconsistencies in theoretical discussions and translation analysis (Munday, 2022). This conceptual overlap has practical consequences in

translation education, where students often misclassify global translation approaches as techniques or identify local translation procedures as methods. While previous studies have extensively described translation methods and translation techniques independently, comparatively few have systematically examined their similarities, distinctions, and complementary roles within a single analytical framework. As a result, the theoretical boundaries between these concepts remain insufficiently defined.

To address this gap, the present study conducts a qualitative comparative analysis of translation methods and translation techniques through systematic document analysis of major translation theories. Rather than examining the application of either concept in a specific translated text, this study compares their theoretical foundations, analytical scope, functional characteristics, and areas of overlap. Specifically, it identifies the principal similarities and distinctions between the two constructs and explains how they operate at different but complementary levels of translation decision-making. By clarifying their conceptual relationship, this study contributes to greater theoretical precision in translation studies, provides a clearer framework for translation analysis and pedagogy, and supports more consistent use of terminology in future translation research and professional practice.

Method

This study employed a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) using the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) protocol to identify, screen, and synthesize scholarly literature on translation methods and translation techniques. A systematic review provides a transparent and replicable procedure for locating, evaluating, and synthesizing existing research while minimizing selection bias (Kitchenham, 2004; Page et al., 2021). Because the objective of this study is to compare theoretical constructs rather than investigate empirical translation data, document analysis was adopted as the primary analytical method. Document analysis enables researchers to interpret and synthesize published documents systematically to generate conceptual understanding and theoretical insights (Bowen, 2009).

Comparative qualitative research enables researchers to investigate similarities, differences, and conceptual relationships between translation methods and translation theories through systematic examination of scholarly texts and translation frameworks (Tarvi, 2026; Calzada-Pérez, 2017; Tambunsaribu, 2025). The comparative approach is suitable because translation studies frequently involve examining conceptual frameworks across scholars and paradigms rather than measuring variables quantitatively (Zha, 2022; Tambunsaribu, 2022). This research applies a qualitative comparative design to examine the conceptual distinctions and intersections between translation methods and translation techniques (Corina, 2021). Comparative qualitative research allows the systematic identification of similarities, differences, and underlying assumptions across translation paradigms (Tyulenev & Zheng, 2017; Mello, 2021). The study adopts a descriptive-comparative approach. Descriptive analysis is used to explain the characteristics of each translation method and theory, while comparison identifies convergences and divergences among them. Translation studies scholars often use comparative frameworks to map disciplinary developments and theoretical evolution (Nzimande, 2023; Tambunsaribu & Prasetyo, 2024).

This research relies on secondary data sources, including books on translation studies, journal articles discussing translation methods and theories, foundational works from translation scholars, and previous comparative studies in translation studies. Representative scholars whose works may serve as theoretical references include Newmark (1988), particularly for translation methods; Nida (1982), for equivalence theory; Venuti (2018), for domestication and foreignization; Nord (1997), for functionalism; Toury (1997), for descriptive translation studies; and Vinay and Darbelnet (1995; 2002), for translation procedures and methods. These sources provide the conceptual foundation for comparative examination and facilitate a deeper understanding of the development and application of translation theories. The use of documentary sources is common in translation scholarship, as they support the analysis of theoretical development and scholarly discourse within the field (Nzimande, 2023).

Coding and categorization in this research involve systematically organizing theoretical data into meaningful analytical units to facilitate comparison between translation methods and translation techniques. This process of coding and categorization enables the researcher to identify patterns, similarities, and distinctions across theoretical frameworks, thereby supporting a more systematic and structured comparative analysis (Miles et al., 2014). Through these categories, the study establishes a clearer conceptual map that facilitates the interpretation and synthesis of translation theories from multiple scholarly perspectives (Munday, 2016). Through this

comparative thematic analysis, the study seeks to reveal whether translation methods and translation techniques operate as independent concepts, complementary processes, or interconnected dimensions within translation practice (Volf, 2020; Tambunsaribu, 2024; Ausloos, 2021). Such comparative procedures enable researchers to develop a clearer conceptual distinction while simultaneously understanding how both concepts contribute to translation outcomes and translator decision-making processes (Munday, 2016; Newmark, 1988). Interpret conceptual relationships and identify overlaps and distinctions. Comparative thematic analysis was employed to identify patterns, conceptual overlaps, and distinctions between translation methods and translation theories through coding, categorization, and interpretation processes (Sun et al., 2025). Thus, Comparative methodologies are increasingly used in translation studies to systematically map conceptual similarities and differences. This distinction aligns with translation scholarship, which suggests that methods operate more directly within translation practice, whereas theories provide explanatory frameworks for understanding translation phenomena (Kyrychuk, 2018).

The literature search was conducted between January and March 2026 using four major academic databases: Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar. These databases were selected because they index high-quality publications in translation studies, linguistics, and applied language research. The literature search was conducted using Boolean operators to maximize the retrieval of relevant studies on translation methods and translation techniques. Various combinations of keywords were employed, including: translation method AND technique, translation method AND translation theory, translation technique AND translation theory, Newmark AND translation methods, Molina and Albir AND translation techniques, and translation methods versus translation techniques. These search strings were designed to capture studies addressing both the theoretical foundations and comparative perspectives of the two constructs. To ensure the quality and relevance of the reviewed literature, the search was limited to peer-reviewed journal articles, scholarly books, book chapters, and conference proceedings published in English between 1988 and 2025. The year 1988 was selected as the starting point because it marks the publication of Newmark's influential classification of translation methods, which has become a foundational framework in contemporary translation studies. Restricting the review to this period enabled the study to trace the conceptual development and scholarly discussion of translation methods and translation techniques from the emergence of Newmark's framework through recent theoretical advancements.

The database search initially identified 312 records. After removing 56 duplicate publications, 256 records remained for title and abstract screening. Screening excluded 183 studies because they did not directly address the conceptual relationship between translation methods and translation techniques. The remaining 73 articles underwent full-text assessment. Following eligibility evaluation, 41 publications met all inclusion criteria and were included in the final synthesis. The study selection process followed the PRISMA workflow shown below.

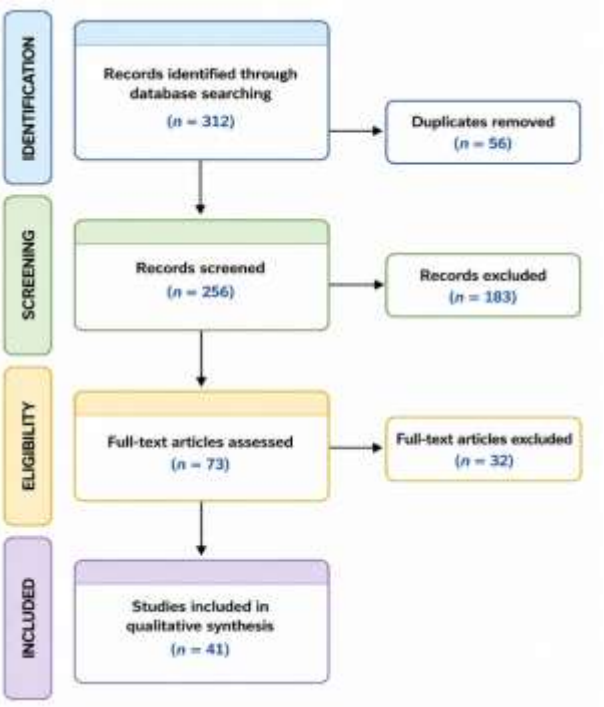

Figure 1. PRISMA Flow Diagram

Data were extracted using a standardized review matrix specifically developed for this study to ensure consistency and transparency throughout the review process. Each selected publication was systematically coded according to several analytical dimensions, including bibliographic information, the underlying theoretical framework, definitions of translation methods and translation techniques, analytical scope (i.e., macro- or micro-level), translation orientation (source-language or target-language oriented), objectives and functions, practical applications, and the reported similarities and differences between the two constructs. Organizing the literature according to these categories facilitated a systematic comparison across studies and enabled the identification of recurring concepts, patterns, and theoretical

relationships. The extracted data were subsequently analyzed through thematic document analysis, in which the coded information was synthesized to examine conceptual convergence and divergence, establish analytical relationships, and develop a comprehensive understanding of how translation methods and translation techniques are distinguished and interconnected within contemporary translation studies.

The extracted data were analyzed through thematic document analysis (Bowen, 2009). Following the coding procedures suggested by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014), the researchers first conducted open coding to identify recurring concepts, followed by axial coding to organize related concepts into broader analytical themes. These themes were subsequently compared across studies using a comparative matrix that enabled systematic identification of conceptual convergence, divergence, and complementary relationships. Finally, an interpretative synthesis was conducted to integrate findings from the selected studies and develop a coherent conceptual framework distinguishing translation method from translation techniques. The synthesis focused on explaining their respective analytical levels, functional roles, decision-making processes, and areas of overlap in translation practice. This procedure enhances the transparency, rigor, and reproducibility of the study while providing a comprehensive theoretical comparison of the two constructs.

Findings and Discussion

Comparative analysis between translation methods proposed by Newmark (1988) and translation techniques introduced by Molina and Albir (2002) presents a conceptual challenge because both frameworks operate at different levels of translation decision-making. Translation methods function at the macro level, reflecting the translator's overall orientation toward the entire text, whereas translation techniques operate at the micro level by addressing specific linguistic units such as words, phrases, clauses, and expressions. Consequently, direct one-to-one correspondence between methods and techniques is not always possible. Nevertheless, both frameworks demonstrate notable conceptual similarities in several aspects, including their orientation toward source language preservation and target language naturalness, their approaches to culture-specific elements, and their emphasis on transferring meaning rather than merely reproducing linguistic forms. Furthermore, both frameworks recognize the necessity of translator intervention and flexibility throughout the translation process and position translation choices along a continuum ranging from literal to free translation. Most importantly, translation methods and translation techniques can both be understood as decision-making frameworks that guide translators in producing effective translations despite functioning at different analytical levels. Therefore, understanding both their similarities and distinctions is essential to avoid conceptual overlap and to establish a clearer analytical foundation for comparative translation studies. The following are the results of the comparison between "Translation Methods" and "Translation Techniques".

Similarities between Translation Methods and Techniques: Shared Orientation *toward Source Language (SL) Preservation.* Several methods and techniques prioritize maintaining the form, structure, or linguistic features of the source text. Look at the table below to see the similarities between translation methods and translation techniques related to source language preservation.

Table 1. ***Similarities between Translation Methods and Techniques***

Translation Method	Similar Translation Techniques	Similarity Analysis
Word-for-word translation	Literal translation, Calque, Borrowing.	All prioritize close adherence to SL lexical items and structure. They preserve source-language features with minimal intervention.
Literal translation	Literal translation, Calque	Both attempt direct transfer of meaning while maintaining grammatical similarity where possible.
Faithful translation	Borrowing, Literal translation, Calque, Established equivalent	These techniques help maintain contextual precision and preserve source-oriented meaning.
Semantic translation	Borrowing, Description, Compensation	These allow preservation of meaning and stylistic nuance while keeping close to the original text.

Word-for-word translation method → Literal translation, Calque, Borrowing, The reason word-for-word translation is closely related to literal translation, calque, and borrowing is that all four approaches tend to maintain a strong connection to the source language (SL) form. They prioritize preserving original lexical items, structures, or

expressions with only limited adaptation into the target language (TL). Because of this, they are often grouped as source-language-oriented procedures.

Table 2. ***Word-for-word translation method → Literal translation***

Translation Technique	Why It Is Related to the Word-for-Word Translation Method	Example (SL → TL)	Explanation
Literal translation	Similar to word-for-word translation because it closely follows SL lexical choices and grammatical structures, but allows slight grammatical adjustment to fit TL rules.	She opened the door → Dia membuka pintu	The structure remains close to the original, but grammar is adjusted naturally for Indonesian.
Calque	Related because it directly translates the components of an SL expression or phrase into TL while preserving its conceptual structure.	Skyscraper → pencakar langit	The expression is built by translating each element (sky → langit, scraper → pencakar), keeping the original concept.
Borrowing	Related because it keeps SL lexical items with little or no translation, preserving the source form most directly.	a) computer → computer; b) internet → internet	The source term is retained with minimal modification.

Literal translation method → Literal translation, Calque, In translating the entire source language (SL) text, the researcher commonly begins by applying the word-for-word translation method as an initial step. When employing translation techniques such as literal translation, calque, and borrowing, the resulting translation tends to closely resemble the outcomes produced through the word-for-word translation method. There seems to be a small mismatch in your table: the heading asks about "Literal translation method", but the similarity statement shown below still refers to word-for-word translation. For the literal translation method, the similarity analysis should focus on how it balances close adherence to source-language (SL) form while allowing limited grammatical adjustment for target-language (TL) naturalness.

Comparative Illustration

SL: Medical students need critical thinking skills.

TL: Mahasiswa kedokteran membutuhkan keterampilan berpikir kritis.

Table 3. ***Literal translation method → Literal translation, Calque***

Translation Technique	Translation Result	Relationship to Literal Translation
Literal Translation	Mahasiswa kedokteran membutuhkan keterampilan berpikir kritis.	Preserves lexical meaning and sentence structure closely.
Calque	"Berpikir kritis" from "critical thinking"	Transfers conceptual components directly.

Faithful translation method → Borrowing, Literal translation, Calque, Established equivalent, Faithful translation is closely related to borrowing, literal translation, calque, and established equivalent because all of these techniques support the translator's goal of preserving the original meaning, contextual nuance, and source-language orientation. A faithful translation attempts to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the source text while remaining loyal to the author's intention, cultural elements, and lexical choices. Therefore, these techniques are useful because they minimize unnecessary adaptation and maintain semantic accuracy.

Table 4. Here is the explanation of how each technique relates to faithful translation:

Translation Technique	Why It Is Related to Faithful Translation	Example (SL → TL)	Explanation
Borrowing	Maintains source-language terms when preserving cultural or technical precision is important.	The patient received insulin therapy. → Pasien menerima terapi insulin.	The borrowed term insulin maintains scientific accuracy and contextual precision.
Literal Translation	Keeps close lexical meaning and grammatical structure while preserving the source message accurately.	The committee approved the proposal. → Komite menyetujui proposal tersebut.	Most lexical items are translated directly while maintaining the original meaning.
Calque	Transfers source-language expressions or	Brainwashing → cuci otak	The phrase is translated element by element but

	structures into the TL while preserving conceptual meaning.		keeps the original concept intact.
Established Equivalent	Uses commonly accepted translations that preserve the recognized meaning in the target culture.	United Nations → Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa	A standardized equivalent preserves meaning accurately and consistently.

Semantic translation method → Borrowing, Description, Compensation, Semantic translation is closely related to borrowing, description, and compensation because these techniques help translators preserve not only the core meaning of the source text but also its stylistic, cultural, and contextual nuances. Unlike literal or faithful translation, semantic translation gives greater attention to the aesthetic and expressive aspects of the original text while remaining close to the source language. Comparative Illustration

Table 5. ***SL*: *She enjoyed drinking sake while watching the cherry blossoms.***

Translation Technique	Translation Result	Relationship to Semantic Translation
Borrowing	Dia menikmati minum sake sambil melihat bunga sakura.	Preserves cultural and stylistic identity.
Description	Dia menikmati minum sake, minuman tradisional Jepang, sambil melihat bunga sakura.	Adds explanation to maintain meaning.
Compensation	Dia menikmati sake sambil menikmati keindahan bunga sakura di musim semi Jepang.	Adds contextual nuance to preserve atmosphere and effect.

Shared Orientation Toward Target Language (TL) Naturalness**,** Some methods and techniques prioritize readability and natural expression. Look at the table below to see the similarities between translation methods and translation techniques related to making the target languages sound natural for the readers

Table 6. ***Shared Orientation Toward Target Language (TL) Naturalness***

Translation Method	Similar Translation Techniques	Similarity Analysis
Communicative translation	Established equivalent, Modulation, Variation	Focus on audience comprehension and naturalness
Idiomatic translation	Established equivalent, Modulation, Variation	Prefer natural TL expressions and idioms
Free translation	Amplification, Linguistic amplification, Compression, Reduction	Allow restructuring and freer expression
Adaptation	Adaptation, Discursive creation, Variation	Prioritize cultural accessibility

Communicative translation → Established equivalent, Modulation, Variation, Communicative translation is closely related to established equivalent, modulation, and variation because all three techniques prioritize reader comprehension, naturalness, and effective communication in the target language (TL). Unlike source-oriented methods, communicative translation focuses on ensuring that target readers understand the message clearly and naturally, even if some structural or lexical changes are required.

Comparative Illustration

SL: Keep off the grass.

Table 7. ***Communicative translation → Established equivalent, Modulation***

Translation Technique	Translation Result	Relationship to Communicative Translation
Established Equivalent	Dilarang menginjak rumput.	Uses a familiar public-sign expression.
Modulation	Jangan berjalan di atas rumput.	Changes wording for natural understanding.
Variation	Mohon tidak menginjak rumput.	Adjusts politeness level and style.

Idiomatic translation → Established equivalent, Variation, Modulation, Idiomatic translation is closely related to established equivalent, variation, and modulation because these techniques help translators produce natural target-language (TL) expressions while preserving the intended meaning of the source language (SL). Unlike source-oriented methods, idiomatic translation prioritizes expressions that sound familiar and natural to target readers, even if the wording differs significantly from the original.

Comparative Illustration

SL: It's raining cats and dogs.

Table 8. ***Idiomatic translation → Established equivalent, Variation, Modulation***

Technique	Translation Result	Relationship to Idiomatic Translation
Established Equivalent	Hujan deras sekali.	Uses a commonly accepted equivalent meaning.
Variation	Hujannya lebat **banget**.	Adjusts style and register for the audience.
Modulation	**Hujan turun** sangat deras.	Changes expression structure while preserving meaning.

Free translation → Amplification, Reduction, Linguistic amplification, Compression, Free translation is closely related to amplification, reduction, linguistic amplification, and compression because these techniques allow translators to move away from strict source-language (SL) structure and prioritize meaning transfer, readability, and flexibility of expression. Unlike source-oriented methods, free translation focuses on reproducing the message in a way that sounds natural and understandable in the target language (TL), even if substantial restructuring is required.

Comparative Illustration

SL: After a long and exhausting journey, they finally arrived home feeling relieved.

Table 9. ***Free translation → Amplification, Reduction, Linguistic amplification, Compression,***

Translation Technique	Translation Result	Relationship to Free Translation
Amplification	Setelah perjalanan panjang yang melelahkan, mereka akhirnya tiba di rumah dan merasa lega karena perjalanan telah selesai.	Adds explanatory detail.
Reduction	Setelah perjalanan panjang, mereka akhirnya sampai di rumah.	Removes less essential information.
Linguistic Amplification	Setelah perjalanan yang sangat panjang dan melelahkan, akhirnya mereka sampai juga di rumah.	Adds linguistic emphasis for naturalness.
Compression	Mereka akhirnya pulang dengan lega setelah perjalanan panjang.	Condenses information while preserving meaning.

Adaptation → Adaptation, Generalization, Discursive creation, Variation, The adaptation translation method is closely related to adaptation, discursive creation, generalization, and variation because all four prioritize cultural accessibility, audience familiarity, and contextual appropriateness. Unlike source-oriented methods, adaptation focuses on producing a text that functions naturally in the target culture, even if significant changes to form, references, or expressions are required.

Comparative Illustration

SL: He bought hot dogs and watched baseball on Independence Day.

Table 10. ***Adaptation → Adaptation, Generalization, Discursive creation, Variation***

Translation Technique	Translation Result	Relationship to Adaptation
Adaptation	Dia membeli jajanan dan menonton pertandingan sepak bola saat hari perayaan nasional.	Cultural elements are adjusted.
Generalization	Dia menikmati jajanan dan menonton pertandingan sepak bola saat hari perayaan nasional.	The specific name of something is translated into general terms in the target language
Discursive Creation	Dia menikmati makanan khas sambil merayakan hari besar nasional.	Message recreated creatively.
Variation	Dia beli camilan sambil nonton bola pas hari libur nasional.	Style and social register adapted.

Shared Handling of Culture-Specific Elements Cultural transfer is one of the strongest areas of overlap. Look at the table below to see the similarities between translation methods and translation techniques related to the translation of culture-specific elements.

Table 11. ***Shared Handling of Culture-Specific Elements***

Translation Method	Similar Translation Techniques	Shared Function
Adaptation	Adaptation	Replace cultural elements
Semantic translation	Description, Generalization	Explain culture-specific items
Faithful translation	Borrowing	Preserve cultural

		identity
Communicative translation	Established equivalent	Improve cultural accessibility

Adaptation → Adaptation, The adaptation translation method is closely related to the adaptation technique because both share the same primary goal: replacing source-language cultural elements with target-language cultural equivalents so that the message becomes understandable, natural, and relevant for the target audience. Unlike literal or source-oriented approaches, adaptation prioritizes cultural transfer rather than formal equivalence. When cultural references, customs, institutions, foods, sports, or social practices are unfamiliar to target readers, adaptation changes these elements into something more recognizable while preserving the intended function or effect. Comparative Illustration

Table 12. ***Adaptation → Adaptation***

Source Expression	Literal Translation	Adaptation Translation	Why Adaptation Works
Baseball	bisbol	sepak bola	Uses a more familiar cultural activity
Thanksgiving dinner	makan malam Thanksgiving	acara makan keluarga	Improves cultural accessibility
High school	sekolah tinggi	SMA	Uses an equivalent educational concept

Semantic Translation → Description, Generalization, Semantic translation is closely related to the techniques of description and generalization because both techniques help translators preserve the intended meaning and cultural significance of source-language expressions when direct translation may be unclear or culturally unfamiliar. Semantic translation emphasizes conveying contextual meaning and stylistic nuance while remaining relatively close to the source text. Therefore, explaining or broadening culture-specific concepts becomes important when exact equivalents do not exist.

Comparative Illustration

SL: Visitors enjoyed eating sushi while wearing yukata during the festival.

Table 13. ***Semantic Translation → Description, Generalization.***

Translation Technique	Translation Result in the Indonesian language (target language)	Shared Function with Semantic Translation
Description	Pengunjung menikmati sushi sambil mengenakan yukata, pakaian tradisional Jepang, selama festival.	Preserves cultural specificity through explanation.
Generalization	Pengunjung menikmati makanan Jepang sambil mengenakan pakaian tradisional selama festival.	Uses broader categories to improve comprehension.

Faithful Translation → Borrowing, Faithful translation is closely related to the borrowing technique because both aim to preserve the original meaning, cultural identity, and contextual specificity of the source text. Faithful translation seeks to remain loyal to the source-language (SL) message and cultural context, while borrowing directly retains source-language words or expressions when translating them would reduce meaning or cultural value. Comparative Illustration

Tamble 14. ***Faithful Translation → Borrowing***

Source Expression	Description	Borrowing Result	Why Borrowing Fits Faithful Translation
Kimono	pakaian tradisional Jepang	kimono	Preserves cultural identity
Sushi	makanan Jepang	sushi	Maintains specificity
Samurai	prajurit Jepang	samurai	Retains historical meaning
Diwali	festival keagamaan	Diwali	Keeps cultural context

Communicative Translation → Established Equivalent, Communicative translation is closely related to the established equivalent technique because both prioritize target-reader comprehension, naturalness, and cultural accessibility. Communicative translation focuses on delivering the message in a way that is easily understood by the target audience, while established equivalent uses expressions or terms that are already widely accepted and familiar in the target language (TL). Together, they help ensure that translations sound natural and function effectively within the target culture. Comparative Illustration

Table 15. ***Communicative Translation → Established Equivalent,***

Source Expression	Literal Translation	Established Equivalent	Why It Supports Communicative Translation
No smoking	Tidak merokok	Dilarang merokok	More natural and recognizable
Good morning	Pagi yang baik	Selamat pagi	Matches cultural usage
Keep off the grass	Jauhi rumput	Dilarang menginjak rumput	Improves clarity and usability
United Nations	Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu	Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa	Uses accepted terminology

Shared Use of Meaning Transfer Rather Than Pure Form Transfer**,** Many methods and techniques shift attention from words to meaning. Look at the table below to see the similarities between translation methods and translation techniques related to focusing on the shared meaning rather than pure form transfer.

Table 16. ***Many methods and techniques shift attention***

Translation Method	Similar Translation Techniques	Shared Focus
Faithful translation	Established equivalent	Preserve contextual meaning
Semantic translation	Compensation, Modulation	Preserve meaning and effect
Communicative translation	Modulation, Variation	Preserve communicative impact
Idiomatic translation	Established equivalent	Preserve message rather than form

Faithful translation → Established equivalent, Faithful translation is closely related to the established equivalent technique because both aim to preserve contextual meaning accurately while maintaining the intended message of the source text. Faithful translation emphasizes loyalty to the original text's meaning and context, while established equivalent helps achieve this by using target-language expressions that are already recognized as accurate equivalents for certain terms, institutions, expressions, or concepts. Although faithful translation is generally source-oriented and established equivalent may appear more target-oriented, they overlap when the use of a recognized equivalent is the most accurate way to preserve the original contextual meaning. Comparative Illustration

Table 17. ***Faithful translation → Established equivalent,***

Source Expression	Literal Translation	Established Equivalent	Why It Supports Faithful Translation
United Nations	Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu	Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa	Preserves institutional meaning
No smoking	Tidak merokok	Dilarang merokok	Maintains contextual function
Senior high school	sekolah tinggi senior	SMA	Matches educational context
Ladies and gentlemen	wanita dan pria	Hadirin sekalian	Preserves communicative intent

Semantic translation → Compensation, Modulation, Semantic translation is closely related to the techniques of compensation and modulation because all three prioritize preserving meaning, nuance, and stylistic effect rather than reproducing the exact linguistic form of the source text. Semantic translation seeks to transfer the contextual meaning and aesthetic value of the original message while remaining relatively close to the source text. Compensation and modulation support this goal by helping translators preserve meaning and effect when direct translation would weaken or distort the message. Comparative Illustration, SL: The news hit him hard.

Table 18. ***Semantic translation → Compensation, Modulation***

Translation Technique	Translation Result	Shared Focus with Semantic Translation
Compensation	Kabar itu sangat mengguncangnya secara emosional.	Adds emotional emphasis to preserve effect.
Modulation	Kabar itu sangat memukul perasaannya.	Changes expression while maintaining meaning.

Communicative translation → Modulation, Variation, Communicative translation is closely related to modulation and variation because all three prioritize the communicative impact of the message on the target audience rather than preserving the exact linguistic form of the source text. Communicative translation aims to produce a translation that is clear, natural, and effective for target readers, while modulation and variation provide techniques for adapting meaning and style to achieve the same communicative effect. Comparative Illustration, SL: *Keep off the grass.*

Table 19. ***Communicative translation → Modulation***

Translation Technique	Translation Result	Shared Focus with Communicative Translation
Modulation	Jangan berjalan di atas rumput.	Adjusts wording for clearer communication.
Variation	Mohon tidak menginjak rumput.	Changes style and politeness level for audience expectations.

Idiomatic translation → Established *equivalent,* Idiomatic translation is closely related to the established equivalent technique because both prioritize transferring the intended message naturally rather than preserving the original linguistic form. Idiomatic translation focuses on producing expressions that sound familiar and natural in the target language (TL), while established equivalent uses recognized and commonly accepted expressions that already function naturally within the target culture. As a result, both approaches emphasize meaning, communicative effect, and reader understanding over word-for-word correspondence. Comparative Illustration.

Table 20. ***Idiomatic translation → Established***

Source Expression	Literal Translation	Established Equivalent	Why It Supports Idiomatic Translation
Break a leg!	Patahkan kakimu	Semoga sukses	Preserves intended message
Practice makes perfect	Latihan membuat sempurna	Ala bisa karena biasa	Uses natural cultural equivalent
How are you?	Bagaimana kamu?	Apa kabar?	Reflects natural interaction
Ladies and gentlemen	wanita dan pria	Hadirin sekalian	Maintains communicative purpose

Shared Flexibility and Translator Intervention, Some methods and techniques explicitly allow translator creativity. Look at the table below to see the similarities between translation methods and translation techniques related to shared flexibility and translator intervention.

Table 21. ***Shared Flexibility and Translator Intervention,***

Translation Method	Similar Translation Techniques	Why Similar
free translation	amplification, reduction	strong intervention
adaptation	discursive creation	high creativity
semantic translation	compensation	flexible meaning adjustment
idiomatic translation	variation	stylistic freedom

Free translation → Amplification, Reduction*,* Free translation is closely related to amplification and reduction because all three involve a high degree of translator intervention. Unlike source-oriented methods that closely preserve source-language (SL) structure, free translation prioritizes conveying the message naturally and effectively in the target language (TL), even if this requires adding, removing, or restructuring information. Amplification and reduction support this flexibility because they allow translators to adjust the amount of information presented in order to achieve clarity, naturalness, and communicative effectiveness. Comparative Illustration, SL: After an exhausting journey, they finally arrived home feeling relieved.

Table 22. ***Free translation → Amplification, Reduction***

Translation Technique	Translation Result	Why It Matches Free Translation
Amplification	Setelah perjalanan panjang yang melelahkan, mereka akhirnya tiba di rumah dan merasa lega karena perjalanan berat itu telah selesai.	Adds explanatory information.
Reduction	Mereka akhirnya pulang dengan lega setelah perjalanan panjang.	Removes less essential details.

Adaptation → Discursive creation*,* Adaptation is closely related to the discursive creation technique because both involve a high degree of creativity and flexibility in transferring meaning from the source language (SL) into the target language (TL). Rather than preserving the original wording or structure, both approaches prioritize producing a translation that creates a similar effect, emotional response, or cultural relevance for the target audience. The main connection is that both adaptation and discursive creation allow translators to recreate meaning creatively when direct translation would not achieve the intended impact. Comparative Illustration

Table 23. ***Adaptation → Discursive creation***

Source Expression	Literal Translation	Adapted / Discursive Creation Result	Why Creativity Is Needed
home alone	sendiri di rumah	kevin di rumah sendiri	creates stronger audience connection
black sheep of the family	domba hitam keluarga	pembawa masalah dalam keluarga	preserves meaning, not imagery
finger lickin' good	enak sampai menjilat jari	jagonya ayam	recreates promotional effect

Semantic translation → Compensation, Semantic translation is closely related to the compensation technique because both aim to preserve meaning, nuance, and stylistic effect even when direct translation cannot fully transfer them. Semantic translation focuses on conveying contextual meaning and maintaining the expressive quality of the source text. At the same time, compensation allows translators to recover lost meaning or effects by expressing them elsewhere or in another form. Their similarity lies in flexible meaning adjustment: translators may modify wording, add explanation, or relocate meaning to preserve the overall message and impact. Comparative Illustration

Table 24. ***Semantic translation → Compensation***

Source Expression	Literal Translation	Compensation Result	Why Compensation Supports Semantic Translation
cold smile	senyum dingin	tersenyum tipis dengan sikap dingin	Preserves emotional nuance
hit him hard	memukulnya keras	sangat mengguncangnya secara emosional	Maintains intended effect
Well, well, well	baik, baik, baik	wah, menarik sekali, katanya dengan nada mengejek	Restores sarcastic tone

Idiomatic translation → Variation, Idiomatic translation is closely related to the variation technique because both emphasize stylistic freedom and natural expression in the target language (TL). Idiomatic translation aims to reproduce the message using expressions that sound familiar and natural to target readers, while variation allows translators to adjust style, register, dialect, tone, or social language to fit the communicative context. Their connection lies in the fact that both approaches move away from rigid source-language (SL) forms and prioritize how the message is naturally expressed in the target culture. Comparative Illustration

Table 25. ***Idiomatic translation → Variation***

Source Expression	Literal Translation	Variation Result	Why Variation Supports Idiomatic Translation
What's up?	Apa yang naik?	Apa kabar?	Produces natural conversation
Give me a break!	Beri aku istirahat	Jangan begitu dong	Preserves communicative meaning
Hey buddy!	Hei teman	Hei bro	Matches social context

Distinctions between Translation Methods and Techniques, Although similarities exist in both translation methods and translation techniques, they are not identical categories. Look at the comparison of the use of translation methods and translation techniques in the following table.

Table 26. ***Translation Methods***

Translation Methods	Translation Techniques
Macro-level	Micro-level
Whole text orientation	Segment-level orientation
Overall strategy	Local procedure
The translator's global approach to translate the whole text.	The translator's specific operation to solve some translation problems

Avoiding Conceptual Confusion, Although translation methods and translation techniques share many similarities and often interact during the translation process, they should not be treated as identical categories because they operate at different analytical levels and serve different functions. The most important distinction lies in their scope of application: translation methods operate at the macro level, shaping the translator's overall orientation toward the text as a whole, whereas translation techniques operate at the micro level, addressing specific problems that arise within smaller textual units such as words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. In other words, translation methods represent the translator's global approach to the translation project, while translation techniques function as localized procedures used to implement that approach. This distinction shows that methods provide the general direction for translation decisions, whereas techniques are the practical tools used to execute those decisions during the translation process.

Translation methods are therefore associated with whole-text orientation and overall techniques. A translator selects a method according to factors such as text type, audience expectations, communicative goals, and cultural context. For example, if a translator chooses a communicative translation method, the overall objective may be to

produce a target text that is natural, readable, and accessible for target readers. This choice affects the translator's broader decision-making process throughout the entire text. However, selecting a communicative method does not determine how every individual sentence should be translated; instead, it establishes a general framework within which local decisions will be made. At the sentence or phrase level, translation techniques function as specific operations that solve particular linguistic or cultural problems. A translator working within a communicative translation framework may simultaneously apply multiple techniques depending on the context. The example below uses a communicative method: SL: "He finally broke the silence and spilled the beans about the project." TL: "Akhirnya dia mulai berbicara dan membocorkan rahasia tentang proyek itu." This translation may involve several techniques operating simultaneously: Modulation: "broke the silence" becomes "mulai berbicara", changing the expression while preserving meaning, Established equivalent: "spilled the beans" becomes "membocorkan rahasia", using a recognized equivalent expression, Amplification: adding "tentang proyek itu" for clarity if context requires it, Transposition: adjusting grammatical structures to fit Indonesian syntax naturally.

This example illustrates that one translation method can incorporate multiple techniques within the same passage. The method establishes the overall communicative orientation, while techniques provide the operational tools for carrying out that orientation. Another example can further clarify this distinction. Suppose a translator chooses the semantic translation method for a literary text to preserve nuance and stylistic depth. Within that broader framework, the translator might still use compensation techniques to recreate lost stylistic effects, borrowing techniques to preserve cultural references, or variation techniques to adjust dialogue styles between characters. This demonstrates that methods and techniques are complementary rather than competing concepts. Therefore, the relationship between methods and techniques can be understood hierarchically: methods guide the translation project, whereas techniques execute translation choices at specific points in the text. Methods answer questions such as "What overall approach should be taken?", while techniques answer "How should this specific problem be solved?" Recognizing this distinction is important because it prevents conceptual overlap and allows translators and researchers to analyze translation decisions more systematically. Ultimately, translation methods provide the strategic framework, while translation techniques provide the operational mechanisms that make translation possible in practice.

Conclusion

This study compared Newmark's (1988) translation methods and Molina and Albir's (2002) translation techniques to clarify their conceptual relationship and analytical functions within translation studies. The findings demonstrate that the two frameworks share several common characteristics, including their concern with meaning transfer, source-language and target-language orientation, treatment of culture-specific elements, and the exercise of translator intervention. Nevertheless, they differ fundamentally in their scope of application. Translation methods operate at the macro level, providing the overall orientation that guides the translation of an entire text, whereas translation techniques function at the micro level, representing localized procedures employed to solve specific linguistic, cultural, or contextual problems. Rather than constituting competing concepts, the two frameworks are complementary, with translation methods shaping the translator's global approach and translation techniques facilitating context-sensitive decisions within individual textual units.

This study contributes to translation studies by providing a systematic comparative framework that distinguishes translation methods from translation techniques, thereby addressing the conceptual ambiguity that has frequently led to the interchangeable use of these terms in previous literature. By synthesizing major theoretical perspectives within a single analytical framework, the study establishes clearer conceptual boundaries and enhances theoretical precision regarding the relationship between macro-level translation orientation and micro-level translation decision-making. Consequently, the findings enrich scholarly discussions on translation theory and provide a more coherent basis for understanding the complementary roles of methods and techniques in translation practice. The findings also have practical implications for translation pedagogy, research, and professional practice. For translation educators, the clarified distinction between methods and techniques may facilitate the development of more effective teaching materials and classroom instruction. For students, a clearer conceptual understanding can improve the accuracy of translation analysis and the appropriate application of theoretical frameworks when evaluating translated texts. Professional translators may likewise benefit from recognizing how overall translation methods interact with localized translation techniques, thereby supporting more informed and consistent decision-making

throughout the translation process. In addition, the proposed comparative framework may serve as a useful reference for researchers conducting theoretical analyses or empirical investigations of translation phenomena.

Despite these contributions, the present study has several limitations. First, the analysis is based exclusively on documentary sources and theoretical literature rather than empirical data derived from translated texts or translator behavior. Second, the review focuses primarily on the frameworks proposed by Newmark (1988) and Molina and Albir (2002), while other influential models of translation methods and techniques receive comparatively limited attention. As a result, the conclusions should be interpreted within the scope of the selected theoretical perspectives and may not fully represent the diversity of approaches found across the broader field of translation studies. Future research could extend the present study by examining the interaction between translation methods and translation techniques through empirical analyses of authentic translated texts from different genres, such as literary works, legal documents, audiovisual media, technical texts, or machine-assisted translation outputs. Comparative investigations involving additional theoretical frameworks, multilingual corpora, or translator decision-making processes would further enhance understanding of how macro-level translation methods influence the selection of micro-level translation techniques in diverse communicative and cultural contexts. Such research would contribute to the continued refinement of translation theory while strengthening the connection between conceptual models and professional translation practice.

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