Linguistics and Poetics
Roman Jakobson

Roman Jacobson initiates his text with **« what make a verbal message a work of art? »**

Questions:

What is it that differentiates a poetic text from a non-poetic text? What are the intrinsic linguistic properties of the text, which makes it a poem? What is there about the internal structure of a poem, which announces that it is a poem?

In order to make any act of verbal communication, according to Jacobson, there are 6 fundamental factors which are necessary for its operation:

- Addresser: encoder, speaker, writer, poet,…
- Addressee: decoder, listener, reader ….
- Code: system / rules
- Message: the given text
- Context: reference
- Contact: psychological contact between the addresser and the addressee.

Through activating these six factors, according to Jacobson, theory of communication and language servers at least six different functions:

1. Phatic function:

It is the language for the sake of interaction only and is therefore, associated with contact/channel factor. Eg; greetings, casual conversations… to establish a social connection without really communicating any meaningful information. Only to start and end conversations or to check connection between the sender and the receiver.

Eg: How are you/ good bye/ Hello …. Etc

2. Emotive/ expressive function:

It focuses on the sender, his feelings and reactions that do not alter the direct meaning of utterance but to add information about addresser's internal state

Eg: Cool, I'm excited

Oh! Wow

3. Conative function:

It occurs when the addressee is directly engaged by imperatives or vocatives

Eg: Natalie! It is raining

Come on

4. Referential function

It is sharing information with an audience/addressee. This is the language you use to convey information in an objective way.

Eg: water boils at 100 degrees.

5. Metalingual function:

Meta- is basically defined as self- awareness or self-reflexion

Therefore, metalingual function is also relevant in translation if foreign words are used to give special meaning or emphasis.

Eg: what are you saying?

Are you speaking French?

6. The poetic function:

Directly deals with message. It has a very less to do with sender, receiver or context. The focus is on "the message for its own sake."