

Specificities of Translation of English and Chinese Idioms

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Abstract:- Our article is about “Specificities of Translation of English and Chinese Idioms”. The main purpose of our research is the differentiation of the important methods of translating of Chinese-English idiomatic expressions. Idiomatic expression is a phraseological unit as the special form of the language which contains a lot of cultural information such as: history, geography, religion, traditions, national psychology. Despite the knowledge of the theory and practice of translation, it is necessary to understand the specifics and peculiarities that needs translation of idiomatic expressions. There are discussed translation methods of literal, free, annotated in the current article that have a wide range of features. This research will help us to know which methods to use when we are translating various types of idiomatic expressions.

Keywords:- Idiomatic expressions; English and Chinese Idioms, Translation Methods; Specifics and Peculiarities of Translation.

I. INTRODUCTION

English and Chinese languages are radically different languages from each other and they belong to the different languages' groups. The difference lies in the following grammar segment: the alphabet, the phonology, the spoken language, the dictionary, the grammar, the sequence and collocation of the words.

English alphabet is based on the alphabetical system, while the Chinese writing is logographic. Chinese hieroglyphs are divided into two parts: one represents the meaning, the other is the sound. The same symbol often represents different sound and the similar sound is often displayed with the different characters. As we have mentioned, Chinese language does not have alphabetic writing, so we use the Latin alphabet in transcription of Chinese hieroglyphs. China started using the standard Latin system in 1958.

Some English phoneme not even available in Chinese language and the intonations are different. Chinese is a language of tones and this leads expression and musicality of Chinese language. To Change tones, cause the changes of the meaning of the word. There is no problem in this regard in English, Changing the tones does not change the meaning of the word (Seaton, Klein, 2003).

There are four tones in Chinese language that must be strictly remembered in the spoken language. There are more vowels in English language than in Chinese. English language has a number of verbs that are the phraseological verbs, which with prepositions together change their meaning, for example: take on, give up, look up and so on. As for the Chinese language, it does not have phraseological verbs or articles (Tan Peng, 1986).

II. THE METHODS OF TRANSLATION

Despite the knowledge of the theoretical and practical aspects of translation, if we do not know the characteristics and elements of Chinese culture at appropriate level, it is difficult to create not only Chinese but also the equivalent of the idiomatic expressions in general in any other languages. Very interesting subject is the functional relevance of the translation of Chinese idioms in English. The first thing to note here is a literal translation that is one of the main methods of translating process. It requires that we keep the original elements in translation. The main type of literal translation is the direct translation. The literal translation does not mean translating that all words must be preserved from the original, translators try to use this method to help the readers to fully understand the nature of the culture of the translate language.

- ❖ Here are given some idiomatic expressions translated from English language into Chinese language (Wang Ziyu, 2007):
 - To turn over a new leaf – 揭开新的一页
 - To break the record – 打破纪录
 - Golden age - 黄金时代
- ❖ Here are given some idiomatic expressions translated from Chinese language into English language:
 - 易如反掌 – As easy as turning over one's hand
 - 削足适路履 – To whittle down the feet to fit the shoes
- ❖ Here are given some idiomatic expressions borrowed from Chinese language:
 - To lose face - 丢脸
 - To shoot the arrow at a target – 有的放矢

❖ Here are given some idiomatic expressions borrowed from English language:

- 武装牙齿 - Armed to the teeth
- 门户开放 政策 – The open-door policy

❖ Here are given some English and Chinese idiom expressions that are equivalents of each other, not only in meaning but also in metaphorical comparisons:

- Walls have ears – 墙有耳
- Strike while the iron is hot – 趁热打铁
- To add fuel to the fire – 火上加油

III. NATIONAL REALITIES IN IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

We want to emphasize the great influence of culture and religion in translating idiomatic expressions. Because of the different cultures and beliefs of the countries, there are such idiomatic expressions, which are established with the status of national realities. For example, some of Chinese population is a part of Buddhism, they are deeply inspired by Buddhism, Buddha is their god, so you often encounter religious elements in Chinese.

idiomatic expressions, for example: “谋事在人，成事在天” “Man proposes, God disposes”.

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that consideration of the presented examples illustrates a variety method of translation of idiomatic expressions. We have discussed translation methods of literal, free, annotated, that have a wide range of features. We need to know which methods to use when we are translating different idiomatic expressions. In equivalence translation we should take into account the fact that in Chinese and English there are many national realities, so their verbal translation makes it difficult to understand the content. It would be better if we translate such expressions into a free translation method that makes it easy for readers to understand the implicit conception and we can use the literal translation for the purpose of enriching the vocabulary of some languages.

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