

Research on the Translation Characteristics of English Idioms

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Abstract: English idioms are the focus of the English language system. They mainly refer to the translation of phrases with rich national colors such as proverbs, proverbs and proverbs. This paper focuses on the translation characteristics and translation methods of English idioms. The idioms have strong vividness, popularity and image. They are widely used in cultural exchanges, and they are deeply studied to improve the existence of cross-cultural communication. The issue is of great significance to the establishment of a friendly exchange relationship.

1. Introduction

As an international language, English is an important basis for countries to carry out exchange activities. Most English idioms have strong regional colors and national characteristics. If the idioms are not properly translated, it will have an adverse impact on diplomacy. Therefore, when translating English idioms, translators should emphasize their characteristics in terms of language and rhetoric, and adopt the most suitable translation method to solve the problem of idiom opacity and vocabulary vacancy.

2. Translation Features of English Idioms

2.1. Language Features

The linguistic features of English idioms are mainly characterized by the fact that their collocations are fixed. They cannot change or replace the constituent words at will when they are translated. Otherwise, they will disturb the inherent cognition of others, resulting in more serious understanding differences and affecting the accuracy of the translation. In particular, some idioms derived from famous local allusions are not limited to the meaning of the surface, but often have deeper connotations. This is the most important in China. For example, the words “two peaches kill three people” and “referring to deer as horses” There is usually a historical allusion behind it. If you don't understand the allusion and only translate it literally, it will inevitably lead to different consequences in China. In addition, English idioms generally have a strong duality. Some idioms have no different literal meanings than common words, but their actual meaning may be completely different. For example, most Chinese will translate “Go out with somebody” into “and”. People go out, but the deep meaning of this sentence is “to reunite with someone”, and as we think “child's play” refers to “children's play”, but from the perspective of English idioms, this sentence stands for “Things that are easy to do.”

2.2. National characteristics

The reason why idioms have strong national characteristics is that they are deeply influenced by factors such as geographical environment, history and culture, living habits and religious beliefs. First, the geographical environment, because coastal countries are in contact with the sea, fishing, and navigation all the year round, the idioms are mostly related to the sea. The typical representative is “all at sea”, which means “underwhelmed, ignorant” rather than “at sea. “A good sailor” does not mean “a good sailor” but “no seasickness”. Second, history and culture, countries affected by this factor are China, the United Kingdom and other countries. The former is because of its long history. And the language system is unique, even if the invasion of foreigners can not shake the results of language development for thousands of years, the latter is because the development

time is relatively short, the invasion of foreigners has caused serious impact on the economy and culture. For example, the Roman Empire ruled Great Britain for about 400 years, so It is not difficult to find traces of Rome in English idioms. Among them, we often say that “all roads lead to Rome”, that is, “All roads lead to Rome”; third, living habits have a relatively profound impact on English idioms. But the direction of influence is mostly diet. For example, bread is a daily food for Westerners. Therefore, “earn one’s bread” means “supporting the family”, and cheese is extremely important for Westerners. The way to save things, so use “big cheese” to mean “important people”, if translated into “big cheese” will make the exchanges feel very embarrassed; fourth, religious belief, because most English-speaking countries believe in Christianity, so most English idioms have a distinct Christian color, such as “Man proposes, God disposes”, in which the original translation of “God” is “God”, but in Chinese it means “day”[1]).

2.3. Rhetoric Features

English idioms generally have metaphorical features. The main reason is that giving full play to the rhetoric can enhance the vividness of language. In practical applications, it usually appears as “metaphor”, “metaphor”, “metaphor”, and “metaphor”. Wait. Among them, “Mingyu” is more straightforward and white, and directly compares something to another object, such as “the timid as a mouse as timid as rabbit”, “stubborn as a cow as stubborn as amule”; “metaphor” is compared with the former It is more subtle and is generally used for the comparison of two kinds of things. “Metaphoric” means that in order to avoid embarrassment and trouble, the use of things similar to the body is used to refer to the words, most of which are used to satirize the bureaucracy; “metaphor” and People's daily life is relatively close. The “bread” mentioned in “Fostering a Family” refers to all life substitutes that can meet actual needs.

Head rhyme is an important part of the English language system. It is also a common rhetorical device for English idioms. It has a strong musical beauty and appeal. This beauty is mainly reflected in the structural features and is of great aesthetic value. The rhyme refers to the fact that only the first part and the consonant group have the same first phoneme in the whole sentence, which is relatively common in poetry idioms. This is in line with the pursuit of formal beauty and rhythm in English poetry, such as “as busy as” a bee” means “hard work like a bee”, or “saints and sinners”, “safe and sound”, “(in)weal and (or) woe (whether it is a blessing disaster)”.

The tail rhyme is also one of the common rhetorical methods of English idioms. The difference between the rhyme and the rhyme is that the rhyme refers to the repetition of the ending factors, and most of them are used in the end of the poem, which means rhyming. If used in idioms, the rhyme The form of expression is more than poetry. The main reason is that the ending of the idiom can use words that are adjacent or similar to the ending. For example, Westerners often use “Man proposes, God disposes” to mean “seeking things in people, doing things in the sky”, and using “A friend in need is a friend indeed” when expressing “difficult to see the truth.”

Anthropomorphic rhetoric can leave enough imagination space and play an important role in enhancing the vividness, image, specificity and popularity of English idioms. It mainly refers to the personalization of things that do not have thoughts and emotions. The common English idioms that apply anthropomorphic techniques are “Time and tide wait for no man”, “Failure is the mother of success” and “The joys of spring”.

3. Translation Methods of English Idioms

3.1. Literal translation

Literal translation in English idioms refers to the translation of its literal meaning. When using this method, translators usually directly convert the literal meaning of idioms into phrases with the same meaning or similar meaning. The translation method produces a more translation. Authentic and faithful, able to retain most of the national cultural intentions in English idioms.Both English and Chinese have a lot of history and culture in idioms. If they are translated by literal translation, it is easier for them to understand and accept[2] for those who have not deeply understood the

historical background and cultural connotation. For example, as the influence of Chinese culture in the international are gradually strengthened, Western countries pay more and more attention to Chinese excellent traditional culture. Although the translation of ancient poetry is difficult, some Chinese proverbs or idioms have been widely spread, such as the more commonly used ones. The hero sees the same thing, “the wolf in the sheepskin”, the former is literally translated as “Great minds think alike”, the latter is translated into “A wolf in sheep’s clothing”, in addition to “tooth for a tooth, eye for an eye. Also pay attention to: An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth”, “There is a father who must have a son: Like father, like son”. For some English idioms that cannot express the meaning accurately, they can be supplemented by a supplementary method. For example, the Chinese translation of “Meet one’s Waterloo” is “Encounter Waterloo”, in order to ensure that others have a deeper understanding of the idiom, After the translation, the brackets are appropriately supplemented “(the metaphor is suffered a heavy defeat or a fatal blow)”, and the conditional permission should also add “Napoleon’s biggest defeat in life in Waterloo, which is an important beginning for his departure from the tower”; Other such idioms include “Achilles’ heel”, translated as “Achilles’ ankle”, which is often used to describe the only Achilles heel.

3.2. Set translation

Most English idioms have two meanings, one is literal meaning and the other is deep meaning. If some idioms cannot fully express their deep connotation by using literal translation, then it is necessary to clarify the important role of translation. Translation is the translation of English idioms in English idioms. There is a purposeful way to translate idiom primitives. When applying this method, translators usually first analyze the two meanings of primitives. The characteristics of the language and the cultural connotation are converted using phrases or words of similar meaning without changing the deep connotation. The translation method is generally applied to some English idioms and Chinese idioms that have the same meaning and expression, but the rhetorical, structural, and extended meanings are basically the same, and the role of the translation method can be fully utilized to accurately express The essence of the two language idioms. For example, for the English idiom “It never rains but it pours”, it is translated from the perspective of Westerners. Most of them are translated as “storms, heavy rains”, and from the perspective of Chinese people, the idioms are common. It is translated as “the house leaks and the night rain”. The former translation can only express the literal image, while the latter translation reflects the deep meaning of the idiom. It not only makes the idiom easy to understand, but also more consistent. The essence of the original language.

Although the translation of idioms by the translation method can accurately express the two meanings of English idioms, although the language style, rhetoric and metaphorical image of the original language cannot be preserved, the linguistic features and national style of the original language can be fully reflected.[3]. In addition, the use of set translation method to translate idioms can further enhance the meaning conversion accuracy of English idioms and Chinese idioms, and avoid positive differences caused by cultural factors, thus causing communication conflicts and interpersonal contradictions. For example, the English idiom for “bluff one’s way (of sh)” can be translated into “blindness,” and “In fair weather prepare for the foul” can be translated as “safe in peace, precautions, preparedness”; There is a Chinese idiom that has been used, and it is generally believed that “Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones” is more similar. For words like “distracted, upset and discouraged”, You can use “be climbing the wall” instead.

4. Conclusions

In summary, the translation characteristics of English idioms are mainly in the aspects of language, ethnicity, rhetoric, etc. The idioms are greatly influenced by geographical environment, religious beliefs, historical events and other factors, with rich national colors and large Some idioms are figurative phrases. People of different countries may have slightly different understandings due to cultural differences. If you want to ensure the accuracy of the translation, translators need to choose translation methods according to the actual situation.

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