

實用標準英文繙譯法

The
Practical and Standard Method
of
English Translation

100 Typical Sentences, 500 Formulas

800 Examples and Exercises

大東書局印行

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The
Practical and Standard Method
of
English Translation

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The Practical and Standard Method of English Translation

Volume One

Introduction

The Value of Translation.

As civilization advances, the scope of knowledge becomes wider; as communication improves, the relation of nations becomes closer; as commerce develops, the intercourse between countries becomes more frequent and the diplomatic affairs more complex; therefore it is both an impossibility and absurdity for any nation to insist on the policy of seclusion in the twentieth century. Moreover, since, the World War came to an end, and universal peace is to be maintained, any nation's dignity and progress is not to be measured by her military power but one standard of measurement will be the amount of knowledge which her citizen can absorb from the culture of other countries for her own advantage. Indeed, every country possesses some original knowledge, be it science, philosophy or art of which her neighbors may be

ignorant. In order to share in this knowledge two ways may be chosen. One is to learn the language of the country of whose hoard of wisdom one wishes to partake, the other is to obtain it through the pen of translators. As it is impossible and uneconomical to have all the people of one nation to learn the language of another before they can get the advantages of their discoveries and experiences, the work of translators become more important and indispensable.

China is an old country but a young republic. She has the need for guidance of other countries' experiences in practically all matters. She is now presenting herself like a willing pupil in the school of modern education and endeavoring to acquire all the knowledges which the other countries have possessed with a view to improving her own civilization. But among her people how many have the sufficient knowledge of modern European language which is the key to open the rich storehouse of Western civilization? A great deal of the work lies upon the shoulders of translators who are in urgent need in every field in China. The future culture of China depends upon them. The necessity and importance of well-equipped translators can never be overestimated.

The Definition of Translation.

Translation means the conversion of an expression

into another language. To say plainly it is an art to reproduce the exact idea of the author by means of a language different from the original.

The Essential Elements of Translation.

From the above definition of translation we know that the original thought of the expression must be kept as exactly as possible. Nothing should be added to or taken away from the original work. The duty of the translator is simply to change the vocabulary not the thought. In translation, therefore, there are two essential elements; accuracy and expressiveness.

Accuracy is the first requisite of translation. The translator must stick to the author's idea. Words selected and sentences constructed must be of such nature as will convey the exact original thought. Any modification made in thought spoils the work.

Expressiveness is to make the translation readily understood. In other words, the translator must express his author as clearly and as forcibly as he can by the medium he employs. He should strive hard to translate the sentence to its best advantage. He must make the translation idiomatic in the language used. Accuracy is to make the thought definite and exact; while expressiveness is to make the translation, vivid and attractive.

A good translation must have these two essential elements.

The above mentioned qualities of good translation can not be obtained unless the translator has a thorough training of the two languages he intends to translate. For example, if a Chinese scholar wishes to translate the English language into Chinese or vice versa he must have the mastery of English and Chinese. Then he can understand the original work clearly and know how to make the sentences into which the work is to be translated idiomatic.

In a word, translation is not an easy task and especially hard when the Oriental language is to be translated into Occidental one or vice versa. It needs good preparation and experience. The failure of many a translator is chiefly due to insufficient knowledge. As my knowledge is limited, I can not give an exhaustive treatment of the whole problem of translation. What I endeavor to do is to set out from the simple sentences to long essays, some definite rules and idiomatic translations which may be taken as specimens or guidance for the young translators. Before I come to the minute discussion some general directions are given in the following.

In undertaking the task of intertranslating Chinese:

and English the translator has to bear in mind the differences of these two languages. These differences are:

- (1) the order of thought.
- (2) the construction of sentences.
- (3) the style and idiom.

The general directions are:

(1) Do not start the translation until the translator has got a clear picture of everything the author means.

(2) Do not make any modification of the original thought. Anything added to or left out from the author spoils the work.

(3) Do not let the sentence structure of the original piece affect the wording of translation. Keep exactly the original thought on one hand and follow strictly the idiomatic construction of the language into which the translation is made on the other.

(4) Note carefully the idioms. These can not be literally translated. The translator has to strive hard to find the words or group of words which can express the exact idea implied in the idioms.

(5) In translating Chinese into English in many cases the order of expressions should be changed. Thus:

(a) An adjective phrase or a short adjective clause should generally be translated after the word it

qualifies.

(b) An adverbial phrase, if it begins with a prepositions should be translated before the word it qualifies.

(c) In Chinese an adverbial clause generally goes before the principal clause, but in English, it has two positions. The translator has the freedom of putting it either before or after the principal clause as fits the context.

(d) The reporting verb with the modifiers may be translated either before or after the reported speech.

(e) When the object of a verb has one long modifier or several modifiers, it should generally be translated after the verb.

(6) In translating English into Chinese the order of expression is usually reversed to the above.

(a) The qualifying phrases or clauses are often put before the word or words they modify.

(b) A phrase, if it begins with a preposition and is used to qualify a verb is often translated before the word it qualifies.

(c) In English the adverbial clause generally has two positions, but in Chinese it should generally go before the principal clause.

(d) The reporting verb with its modifiers should

be translated before the reported speech.

(e) When the object of a verb has a long modifier or several modifiers it should generally be translated before the verb.

(7) A sentence may be translated into different ways all expressing the idea accurately. Select the one most consistent with the language into which the original article is translated.

If the translator keeps the above points and the general directions in mind when he undertakes the work, much trouble will be avoided. As to the other rules or formulas they will be given as the work goes on.

Generally speaking this book is to be divided into two volumes and each volume consists of several parts with various exercises.

Volume I deals with simple sentences. It is divided into three parts. Part one contains translation of simple sentences from Chinese to English, part two, from English to Chinese and part three treats of the different ways of translating one sentence with a view to showing the variety of sentence-construction which is important and indispensable to both translators and writers.

Special emphasis is, however, laid upon the idiomatic expressions. These sentences are all sentence types from which many formulas are drawn in order to help the

young translators to be able to translate sentences of the same kind.

Volume II contains three parts. Part I deals with the translation of letters, part II, short essays, and dramas, part III, documents and various regulations and articles. These selections, though progressive in character, are practical in subject matter. In this volume literal translation sometimes cannot express the exact idea. A limited amount of freedom may be used in order to make the sentence consistent with the style of the language into which the translation is made.

The special features of these two volumes are as following:

(1) The new words and difficult expressions are annotated and explained.

(2) Each lesson is first translated sentence by sentence and then connect into paragraphs.

(3) Each sentence is translated into as many different ways as possible in order to show the variety of writing.

(4) Idiomatic expressions are well explained and illustrated by examples.

(5) Plenty of exercises are given throughout the various parts.

(6) Many formulas or rules are made so that the students may take them as guidance in translating sentences of like nature.

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(9) 繙譯頂難的地方就是習語；(idioms) 因為習語不能直譯，只能斟酌上下文的意義把牠譯出，一方面要不失去原文的真義，一方面又要切合譯文的作法；本書對於此種地方特別注意，解釋格外明詳，使學者能在繙譯的時候，不受文體的拘束，也就不會有因辭害意的毛病；

(10) 這部書是把文法，修辭，作文，繙譯，融化一爐；牠們的重要規則，和彼此的關係，都一一的詳細指出，對於學者實在有很大的幫助。

(一) 最後作者要用很誠懇的態度向大家聲明，繙譯本不容易，漢英互譯為更難。作者本十年教學的經驗，得到小小的結果，掛一漏萬，自未能免。要請海內宏達抱科學的態度，不客氣的來修正牠；這就是作者最希望最歡迎的啊！

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民國十九年八月

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