

Research on Negative Transfer Phenomenon and Solutions in Multilingual Foreign Translation

-- Taking the Chinese-English Translation of Chinese Construction as an Example

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Abstract

In the process of multilingual Chinese translation, due to the influence of the language environment and cultural background, errors often occur due to the negative transfer of the mother tongue in the process of multilingual foreign translation, which makes it impossible to get rid of Chinese thinking and affects the quality of the translation. . In view of this, this paper analyzes the problem of negative transfer of mother tongue in the process of multilingual foreign translation, explores the possibility and feasibility of creating an English-centered bilingual or multilingual professional report on China's construction achievements, and gives corresponding countermeasures and solutions.

Keywords

Negative Transfer of Mother Tongue; Multilingual Foreign Translation; Cultural Promotion.

1. Language Migration

1.1. What is Mother Tongue Transfer

Native language transfer refers to a phenomenon in which learners express their thoughts with the help of native language pronunciation, word meaning, structural rules or habits when using the second language. If the language rules of the native language are consistent with those of the foreign language, then the rules transfer of the native language will have a positive impact on the target language, which is called positive transfer. Negative transfer means that if the language rules of the native language do not conform to the habits of the foreign language, it will have a negative impact on foreign language learning. Language transfer can be used to explain language contacts and language changes between different ethnic groups in history.

1.2. Positive and Negative Transfer of Language

Positive transfer is often referred to as "facilitative transfer", which means that one kind of learning positively promotes another kind of learning. Negative transfer means that one kind of learning interferes or inhibits another kind of learning. Objectively, learners cannot get rid of the influence of their mother tongue when learning a foreign language. As Butzkamm, a German English teaching method professor said: "Mother tongue is not a coat, you can take it off before stepping into a foreign language classroom and throw it away. Therefore, it is necessary for learners to face up to the impact of language transfer in the process of translation, in order to promote language learning.

1.3. Problem Analysis of Negative Transfer of Mother Tongue in the Learning Process

In the process of second language acquisition, learners often use their mother tongue as an intermediary language, and use the second language as a material into the template structure of their mother tongue. In this mode, because the learners have developed the language behavior habits of their mother tongue, it will inevitably affect the formation of new language habits, thus interfering with the learning of the second language and affecting the improvement of the learner's second language ability. English is very different from Chinese in terms of expression, vocabulary selection, sentence structure, etc., and it is easy to interfere with English learners. If the knowledge of these aspects is not solid, the translation will be easily interfered and restricted by the mother tongue, and will naturally rely on the expression habits and patterns of the mother tongue to complete the translation, resulting in inaccurate semantics and even distorted semantics.

2. The Impact of Language Transfer in Multilingual Foreign Translation

2.1. The Negative Transfer Effect of Chinese on English Learning

Chinese and English belong to two completely different language systems, which makes the negative transfer of Chinese to English manifested in many aspects in the process of English learning, mainly including the negative transfer of cultural, phonetic, tense and sentence structure differences.

(1) Cultural aspects: language is the carrier of culture, and culture is the product of language. Language is a social and cultural phenomenon unique to human society, as well as a tool and cultural carrier of human thinking. The Chinese and English peoples belong to two major cultural systems, the East and the West. Their geographical environment, historical conditions, production methods, and social structures are very different, so they have formed different cultural traditions. way of thinking and aesthetic habits. Chinese emphasizes style, charm, and rhythm. In the process of expression, it is rich in color and highlights emotional expression; English emphasizes form, reality, and rationality, and the style tends to be intuitive and perceptible in the process of expression.

(2) Phonetics: vowels in English and finals in Chinese are only similar, but not identical. Some sounds in English do not exist in Chinese. This difference makes learners habitually use their native language onomatopoeia to pronounce, which leads to the emergence of Chinese spoken language. In addition, Chinese is a tonal language, which is usually divided into four tones. As the tones change, the meaning of the words also changes; while English is a tonal language, in which different tones are usually used to express the speaker's tone and tone. Emotion is also a difficulty for many English learners, and it is also an important reason for some learners to flatten their spoken language.

(3) In terms of tense: Chinese does not have a fixed tense change, and the difference between tenses is often expressed by different auxiliary words, such as: "I ate something." "I'm eating." "I'm going to eat." English clearly distinguishes past tense, present tense, future tense and has fixed usages, such as: "I ate something." "I'm eating something." "I'm going to eat something." Learners In translation, it is necessary to judge tense changes in order to choose the appropriate word conjugation.

(4) Sentence structure: Different cultural backgrounds and different ways of thinking make the sentence structures of English and Chinese very different. English sentences are compact in structure and have a tree-like structure; Chinese sentences are loose in structure, often appearing in the form of arranging short sentences, in a bamboo-like structure. Chinese often relies on the logical support between contextual sentences, while English pays more attention

to coherence and is often connected by various connectives, such as: and, then, firstly, secondly, finally, etc.

2.2. The Positive Transfer Effect of English on Spanish Learning

Compared with Chinese, Spanish and English have stronger commonalities, and their usage habits and syntactic structures are more similar. The data shows that the conversion between English and Spanish is mostly positive migration, so the translation from English to Spanish is more accurate than the translation from Chinese to Spanish.

(1) Cultural background: Spanish and English both belong to the Indo-European language family, and both were deeply influenced by ancient Latin under the rule of the Roman Empire to form modern Spanish and ancient English. In the period of the development of modern English, English and Spanish were deeply influenced by modern French. For example, sofa came from French. Britain was ruled by the Norman dynasty of France for three hundred years. French became the language of the upper ruling class and gradually affected the whole country. The English system and Spanish are also close neighbors of France, a cultural powerhouse, and are also deeply influenced by French, with a large number of French loanwords.

(2) Maritime history: With the exploration of the New World by Spain in the fifteenth century, the spread of colonial Spanish to the Americas or the absorption of local languages, the Spanish in Iberia and the Spanish in Latin America were formed today. At this time, the expansion of the British Empire, another great seafaring country, also promoted the integration of English with other languages. During this period, English absorbed many vocabulary from foreign languages, including native languages of Mexico, Peru, and Brazil.

(3) Religious beliefs: Catholicism and Christianity belong to the same sect and have the same religious belief, so English-speaking countries and Spanish-speaking countries have the same festivals, customs, and cultures related to religion, such as: Christmas, Easter, etc.

(4) Phonology: The pronunciation composition and spelling of English and Western languages are very similar. For learners with basic English, if they encounter unfamiliar Spanish words, they can guess Spanish by virtue of the meaning of English words. For example: clase and class, facultad and faculty, examen and exam, familia and family, centro and center, diferente and different, parte and part.

(5) The same word formation method: English and Western languages have a large number of similar words to each other, and both have similar word formation methods. Parts of speech can be identified by affixes. When only one of the words is known, the affixes can be used to deduce words of other parts of speech. For example: Spanish – diferenciar (verb), diferencia (noun), diferente (adjective), diferentemente (adverb); English – difference (verb), difference (noun), different (adjective), differently (adverb).

(6) Syntax: English and Spanish have certain similarities in parts of speech, verb conjugation, singular and plural changes, tense clauses, grammatical rules, and sentence structure. And the prepositions and conjunctions between the two correspond to each other and have the same meaning. For example: Spanish imperative and English imperative sentences are similar; Spanish subjunctive and English subjunctive are similar; Spanish past imperfect and English past continuous overlap. Spanish de corresponds to English of, from, indicating belonging; Spanish a corresponds to English to, indicating arrival; Spanish para corresponds to English for, to, indicating purpose; Spanish desde corresponds to English from, indicating from; Spanish en corresponds to English in, which means in...; Spanish entre corresponds to English between, which means between the two; Spanish y corresponds to English and, which means the conjunction "and"; Spanish o corresponds to English or, which means "or".

3. Effective Countermeasures for the Problem of Negative Transfer of Native Language

3.1. Breaking the Thinking of Monolingual Translation and Constructing the Theory of Characteristic Multilingual Translation

The theoretical system of translation realm includes three realms: translation meaning, translation taste and translation realm. Translation table, translation of meaning and form, translation into reality, multilingual foreign translation alone cannot make the audience truly understand the original text. It is necessary to pursue the translation context, pursue cultural mutual recognition, highlight letter, express and elegant in the translation, build a characteristic multilingual translation theory, break the monolingual translation thinking, solve the translation problem caused by the negative transfer of the mother tongue, and use English to The positive migration of other languages promotes the conversion of traditional translation theories to new translation theories.

3.2. Multilingual Foreign Translation using English as the Medium

Considering that the author is a bilingual major in English and Spanish, taking English and Spanish as an example, taking advantage of the similarities between English and Spanish, English can be used as a medium to westernize the translation, and on the basis of foreign reporting in English that tends to be perfect, a second Translating and polishing, directly translating mature English reports into small languages, retaining Western-style logic, avoiding the problem of negative transfer of Chinese-style thinking, guiding learners to master the structural differences between the two languages, cultivating cultural awareness, and Westernizing the translation.

3.3. Comparative Analysis of Chinese-English-Spanish Translation on the Problem of Negative Transfer of Mother Tongue

Example 1

(1) English translation: "China's Yutu 2 lunar rover has traveled more than a kilometer on the moon and is still working well, according to the China National Space Administration."

(2) Spanish translation: "El rover lunar Yutu-2 de China ha estado conduciendo más de 1 kilómetro en la luna y actualmente se encuentra en buen estado de salud, según la Administración Espacial China."

Judging from the above example, Chinese does not use a certain fixed tense to emphasize time, and the translator needs to judge and choose the tense when translating. It is necessary to find out the subject after the Chinese sentence is scrambled, and then reassemble it according to English habits, change the tense, the position of the subject before and after, and the syntactic structure, and finally get the English translation. In the process of translation from English to Spanish, "has traveled" corresponds to "ha estado conduciendo", "according to" corresponds to "según", just replace English words with Spanish words, tense, word order, sentence pattern are all No need to change.

Example 2

(1) English translation: "Wang Yaping became the first female astronaut to carry out the outgoing activities, taking the first step in China's female extravehicular spacewalk at 18:51 Beijing time on Nov 7, 2021, according to the China Manned Space Engineering Office."

(2) Spanish translation: "Wang Yaping se convirtió en la primera mujer astronauta de China en llevar a cabo las actividades de la cápsula, dando el primer paso en la caminata espacial extravehicular femenina de China a las 18:51 de Beijing del 7 de noviembre de 2021, según la Oficina de Ingeniería Espacial Tripulada de China."

Judging from the above examples, Chinese is more accustomed to conveying information while implying logical relationships, using verbs such as "become" and "step" to maintain a parallel structure, and connect short sentences with parallel structures in series. Contrast English "taking the first step in China's female extravehicular spacewalk at 18:51 Beijing time on Nov 7, 2021" with Spanish "dando el primer paso en la caminata espacial extravehicular femenina de China a las 18:51 de Beijing del 7 de "noviembre de 2021" is different from the parallel structure of Chinese, and tends to be a sentence expression of a clause. In addition, English and Spanish are more similar in the form of time expression. Therefore, skipping Chinese thinking in the process of translating from Chinese to Spanish and translating directly on the English translation can not only help second- or multilingual learners improve Multilingual foreign translation ability, and can obtain translations in other languages more quickly and accurately.

Example 3

(1) English translation:

"To help Ethiopia train personnel in railway operation and maintenance, the Chinese government has specially arranged three "Ethiopian Railway Operation Technology Overseas Training Programs" under the human resources Development Cooperation program for foreigners aid, totaling 120 days training more than 200 people."

(2) Spanish translation:

"Paraayudar a Etiopía a cultivar talentos de operación y mantenimiento ferroviario, el gobierno chino ha organizado especialmente tres fases del" Proyecto de Capacitación en El Extranjero de Tecnología de Operación Ferroviaria de Etiopía "en el marco de la cooperación para el desarrollo de recursos humanos de ayuda extranjera, con un total de 120 días de capacitación y más de 200 personas."

Judging from the above examples, a comparative analysis of Chinese-English-Western language laws and syntactic structures requires re-establishing Western-style thinking in the process of Chinese-to-Western translation. In the process of translating from English to Spanish, there are a lot of similarities. The preposition "To (English)" corresponds to "Para (Spanish)", and the tense "has arranged (English)" corresponds to "ha organizado (Spanish)" , the phrase "more than 200 people (English)" corresponds to "más de 200 personas (Spanish)". The same paragraph, in view of the similarity between English and Spanish, can use English as a medium in the process of translating Chinese to Spanish, and directly translate it into Spanish on the basis of English. Carry out the second thinking reorganization and transformation, which is more accurate and fast.

4. The Significance of Solving the Negative Transfer Phenomenon in Multilingual Foreign Translation

4.1. The Inevitability of Publicity for China's Construction Achievements

President Xi pointed out: "Telling Chinese stories well, spreading Chinese voices well, and showing a true, three-dimensional and comprehensive China are important tasks to strengthen my country's international communication capacity building." For a long time, an important problem that has plagued China's foreign communication is: China How should localized knowledge be transformed into universal knowledge in the world? Pure localized knowledge cannot form a dialogue, and a single language cannot communicate, resulting in obvious cultural differences and no identification. In view of this, how to complete the dissemination of China's development achievements and "speak" the real China to the world is a crucial topic.

4.2. Solving the Impact of Negative Transfer Phenomenon in Multilingual Foreign Translation

At present, in China's foreign propaganda work, there are a large number of bilingual (Chinese and English) news reports on both official platforms and personal media, but there are very few or no translations of reports in small languages. The language of foreign translation should not be limited to English, break through the shackles of "monolingual thinking", take advantage of the similarities between English and other languages, solve the problem of negative transfer of the original mother tongue, and use the original English translation as a medium for secondary translation creation, It enables translators to maintain Western-style thinking, realize the conversion and translation of English to other languages, achieve the integration of foreign translation in the true sense of multi-language, and translate more high-quality multi-language foreign propaganda articles.

The real significance of China's foreign propaganda lies in "telling" Chinese stories, so that people around the world can understand the real China, get rid of the inherent impression of China, and use English as a medium to cultivate Western-style thinking to achieve a true dual-foreign language conversion. There is no absolute standard for translation, and various translation methods have their own advantages and disadvantages. If there is no unified standard to measure, there will be endless versions of foreign publicity translations, and there will be many translations in one language, which is not conducive to external development and the world's unification of my country's image. cognition.

5. Conclusion

Using official English reports, media English news, translations of literary translations, etc. as media, on this basis, we carry out foreign translations in small languages, which not only improves the quality of translation, but also unifies the translations for foreign publicity, and completes the management and control of translations, whether in the area Countries along the route or in distant Latin America will hear the same voice of China in different languages. At the same time, in the wave of rapid development of science and technology, it helps language learners to find their precise positioning in line with the development of the times. Break the traditional single-language foreign translation model, tap your own multilingual foreign translation potential, encourage multilingual learners to innovate thinking, develop their abilities in an all-round way through active participation and action, establish national cultural self-confidence, and allow all countries in the world to listen to To the Chinese stories and construction achievements told in their language, let the world know about the splendid Chinese culture and the achievements of the rising China.

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