Research Article

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSLATION SEMANTOGRAPHY IN INTERPRETER TRAINING

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ABSTRACT

This article aims to elucidate the fundamental nature, characteristics, and practical implementation of a rapid writing technique that utilizes symbols and abbreviations. This method is intended to streamline the job of interpreters. The rapid writing technique in translation has been extensively examined by numerous international translation scholars, leading to the development of various translation symbol systems. However, this particular topic has not been explored within the field of translation studies in our country.

KEYWORDS

Semantography, interpreting, consecutive interpreting, translator training, Charles Bliss.

INTRODUCTION

The importance of translation in our era is unparalleled when it comes to preserving and enhancing connections between nations, particularly in terms of peace, harmony, and friendship. Currently, in the present context where there is a growing demand for interpretation, namely for accurate translation and real-time translation, the education and development of interpreters is a crucial responsibility. Hence, it is imperative to enhance the theoretical foundation of interpreter training and establish practical training sessions as pressing matters.

The technique of quickly transcribing information is referred to as "note-taking" in English, "Notizentechnik" in German, and口译笔记 kǒuyìbǐjì in Chinese [1, 1]. The approach referred to as "переводческая скоропись" (R.K. Minyar-Beloruchev) [2], "универсальная переводческая скоро¬пись" (A.P. Chujakin), "переводческая

нотация" (I. S. Alekseeva) [3], and "переводческая семантография" (E.V. Alikina) [4] is commonly found in the works of Russian scientists. When searching for a substitute name in the Uzbek language, it was necessary to avoid using phrases consisting of many words, such as "translation quick writing method" or "translation conditional written symbols". Instead, the term "translation semantography" suggested by E.V. Alikina was adopted. We deemed it to be the most favorable choice. Charles Bliss coined the term "semantography" to refer to the universal system of signs that he created, combining the Greek words "semanto" meaning "sign" and "grapho" meaning "writing" [4, 11].

The Main Part

Upon examining the system of symbols in translation semantics, we noted that this approach is particularly suitable for languages that employ hieroglyphic writing, such as Chinese, and to some extent, Japanese and Korean. The Chinese language is predominantly characterized by the use of hieroglyphic writing. In modern Chinese, it is common for a single word to be represented by two to three (or even more) hieroglyphs. In this scenario, numerous uncomplicated hieroglyphs can function as representations for certain words and concepts during translation endeavors involving various language pairs. For instance, the hieroglyph 人 rén, which means "man", represents the notion of "person". Similarly, the hieroglyph 木 mù, meaning "tree", signifies "nature", "environment", and "flora". We propose that the hieroglyph 火 huǒ, representing "fire", can also be employed as a symbol for concepts like "fire" and "bullet".

The work of Charles Bliss provides substantiation for our viewpoint. Upon being interned in a detention camp in Shanghai during World War II, he is astounded by the effortless comprehension among Chinese individuals who speak diverse dialects, facilitated by the utilization of the Chinese alphabet. Due to his fascination with the Chinese hieroglyphic script and his determination to become proficient in it, he developed the aforementioned "universal system of characters" [4, 11].

Direct translation semantography is a highly valuable technique that greatly aids translators. It is often understood that it is more advantageous for a speaker to pause their speech after every one or two sentences, allowing the translator to depend on their memory for translation. However, if the speaker engages in uninterrupted speech for a duration of 5 or even 10 minutes, without any breaks, in order to effectively and logically convey their thoughts, it will be a significant challenge for the translator to recall all of the aforementioned details. Indeed, it is accurate that such a scenario arises when the speaker abruptly mentions specific names and locations [1, 2].

Based on studies of recall performance, it has been found that when at least 51% of commonly recognized nouns are remembered, new surnames (particularly those of foreign origin), unknown geographical names, and other unfamiliar or slightly familiar nouns are typically preserved in memory. The range is [2, 6]. Douglas Robinson categorizes memory into two distinct types: object-image memory and process memory. Both of these forms of memory are essential for the translator. The utilization of object-image memory enables the translator to swiftly comprehend the meaning of a word from the dictionary upon visualizing it, while the utilization of process memory facilitates the translator in efficiently employing the word during the translation process. These two varieties of memory play a significant role in comprehending and using textual characters [5, 51].

Undoubtedly, the absence of customary indicators inevitably leads to translation errors or the omission of crucial information. The most efficient method to

refresh short-term memory and alleviate cognitive burden is to make a compromise on the semantographic record. The use of semantographic writing is the only method that can assist the translator in surpassing the constraints imposed by human memory. Nevertheless, composing text with semantic precision is also a challenging endeavor. An initial issue arises from the fact that the semantographic writing conspicuously captures one's attention and disrupts the act of listening. The second issue arises from the translator's lack of proficiency in rapid writing, leading to confusion regarding the appropriate symbols to use and their respective representation. To acquire proficiency in semantographic notation, it is important to first gain mastery over many fundamental features of this approach.

By incorporating the guidelines regarding the meaning of translation found in the literature we have reviewed, we may make the following statement. When employing this method, the interpreter should refrain from writing code on a line-by-line basis. Initially, he should systematically examine the original speech in order to immerse himself in the speaker's thought process. Then he must attempt to apprehend the fundamental terms that are contained within the spoken message. A translator should succinctly convey meaning by using a limited number of words and symbols, ensuring that each word or symbol corresponds to a fundamental word or semantic category. Frequently, a single letter in a root word or a solitary hieroglyph in a Chinese semantic cluster suffices for the translator to recall the initial text. He should adhere to the principle of omitting superfluous sentences or phrases that do not contribute to the central idea, and instead concentrate on significant sentences and phrases that offer further information. Special emphasis should be given to personal names, location names, numbers, time, and organization names. As an illustration,

中国的对外政策是一贯的，有三句话，第一句话是反对霸权主义，第二句话是维护世界和平，第三句话是加强同第三世界的团结和合作，或者叫联合和合作。

In semantic notation, a whole sentence looks like this:

中 f.p. 一贯 ；   3句。

1) 反 h   2) 维 p

3) ↑团 & co./联 → 3rd W. //[1, 2]

As long as the original speech is activated in the memory by the notation, the number of words should be kept to a minimum.

Another important point is that the translator should try to remember the beginning and the end of the speech. At the end of a long speech, it is very likely that the interpreter will not remember how the speaker started and ended his speech. Intermediate words such as "but", "also", "if", "in this regard" are of great importance in establishing a logical connection between different meaning groups and helping to remember what the translator said. Therefore, they should be carefully recorded. In order to facilitate the semantic writing, we can express various groups of intermediate expressions and connectors with simple words that replace them. For example, the word "if" in expressions such as "so long as", "on condition that", "provided/providing that", "in case" expressing conditionality; "though", "though", "even though", "while", "in spite of" and "despite" express the word "tho" in place of conjunctions that express lack of obstacles; the word "to" instead of the conjunctions "so as to", "in order to/that", "so that" expressing the

purpose; the word "due" instead of the conjunctions "because", "as", "since", "for", "for this reason", "now that", "owing to", "thanks to" expressing the reason; the word "so" instead of the conjunctions "thus", "therefore", "hence", "as a result of", "consequently" expressing the result; "but" can be used instead of intermediate expressions such as "neverthless", "still", "however", "yet", "even so", "on the contrary", "on the other hand".

If we talk about the signs widely used in the process of direct oral translation, we will show the following main indicators and signs that can be used as substitutes for the concepts.

1. Indicators →, ←, ↑, ↓

Among these symbols, the most commonly used pointers are small ones. These symbols can represent many meanings. The right-pointing → indicates words such as "export", "go abroad", "reach", "send", "give", "overload", "carry to a state". possible

A left-pointing ← indicates words such as "originating from", "originating from", "coming", "visiting", "importing", "receiving", "returning".

The upward pointer ↑ means to "grow", "increase", "develop", "progress", "ascend", "strengthen", "take off", "fly", "accelerate".

Downward indicative ↓can have meanings such as "fall", "decrease", "shrink", "narrow", "fall down", "deteriorate", "destroy", "depose", "bomb".

2. Mathematical symbols. Mathematical symbols are also widely used in translation semantics, and below we will consider some mathematical symbols and the concepts they can represent.

+ addition, plus, moreover, also

- lack, not enough, insufficient

> greater than, more than, more than, better, higher, better than

< less than, less, smaller, lower, worse

≥ more than, greater than or equal to

≤ less than or equal to

= equal, suitable, compatible, rival to

≠ equal, suitable, not suitable, not a rival to

≈ approximately, around

[ ] among, between, within

∈ belongs to

× error, wrong, negative, negative

√ correct, good, positive, true; popular, well-known, agree, support

∴ therefore, therefore, as a result

3.

: to speak, to say, to express, to think, to report, to declare, or as

? question, ask, doubt

. point of view, opinion, idea

! 1) dangerous, warning, precarious, dangerous

2) of course, inevitable, natural, indisputable

~ trade, exchange,

_ this, emphasis

e.g. for example, for instance

4. Descriptive signs

○ person or persons. This sign is somewhat like a human head. For example, 中国人 (Chinese person) can be written as "中○", 经济学家 (economist) "经○".

^ leader, summit

Δ city, metropolitan

∇ village

⌐ past tense, in the past

└ future tense, in the future

V victory, triumph, achievement

$ dollar, money, wealth, prosperity

* feature, uniqueness, symbol, signature

Furthermore, abbreviations and acronyms are extensively employed in translation semantics, alongside the aforementioned signs and indicators. For instance, international organizations, countries, territories, and currency units can be represented in shorthand using suitable abbreviations.

CONCLUSION

To summarize, the study of translation semantics is a method that aids in the process of spoken translation. In this scenario, the translator converts the linguistic elements of the spoken message by utilizing symbols and conveys it to the recipient using the resources of the target language, with the intention of facilitating memorization. When employing this method, alongside the suggested signals and guidelines put out by professional translators, each interpreter has the ability to develop their own set of signs, tailored to their personal convenience and comprehension, employing a creative approach.

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