

Utilization of Some Sentences with Special Verbal Predicates in the Translation of English into Chinese

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Abstract—This paper discusses the ways English is translated into Chinese by applying some sentences with special verbal predicates peculiar to Chinese language. In this paper the methods involves sentences with verbal constructions in series, and pivotal sentences. This paper introduces some knowledge of Chinese grammar briefly and then mentions what English sentence patterns or structures can be translated into Chinese by using the knowledge.

Keywords—English-Chinese translation; verbal constructions in series; pivotal sentences

I. INTRODUCTION

There are a great number of papers and articles on English-Chinese translation which have dealt with the methods and skills with which English is translated into Chinese. This paper discusses the translation of English into Chinese from a different point of view than others. English can be put into Chinese by applying some sentences with special verbal predicates peculiar to Chinese grammar. In English-Chinese translation, it must be avoided to translate English into European-style Chinese, especially Chinese with European structures. In order to translate English into genuine Chinese, this paper argues that translators had better study Chinese grammar and master as many sentences with special verbal predicates peculiar to Chinese as possible besides mastering English and Chinese languages and being skillful at the necessary English-Chinese translation skills so that they can translate English into excellent Chinese, and make the translation faithfully meaningful and fluent. The paper doesn't repeat all kinds of translation skills and try to apply sentences with special verbal predicates peculiar to Chinese to English-Chinese translation. All of the examples in this article are collected by the authors when composing Medical English Learning Manual (published by People's Military Medical Press).

II. SENTENCES WITH VERBAL CONSTRUCTIONS IN SERIES

A sentence with verbal constructions in series is a kind of special sentence patterns in which one subject has two or more than two predicates which are closely connected to one another logically. The predicates do not modify each other,

being independent of each other. However among several predicates are such logical relations as relations of purposes, methods, cause and effect, and succession. The following sorts of sentences can be translated into Sentences with verbal constructions in series.

A. English sentences with adverbials of purpose

The sentences can be translated into sentences with verbal constructions in series in Chinese, in which the second verb indicates the purpose of the first one so the Chinese sentence is almost the same in structure and semantics as the English one in which the infinitive acts as adverbials of purpose. For example:

Oxytocin may be used to induce labour. 催产素可用于引产。The predicate “may be used” and the infinitive “to induce labour” are translated into the first and the second verbs in Chinese forming a sentence with verbal constructions in series.

For patients and their families alike, it is critical to understand the basics in order to be able to better control the disease.对患者及其家人同等重要的是了解疾病的基本知识更好控制疾病。

To order a copy of The Basics of Diarrhea go to a bookshop or call 333. 欲订购《腹泻基础知识》请去书店或致电 333 333。

Today, many artificial medical devices, including artificial joints (e.g., hips and knees), pacemakers, heart valves, and eye lenses are surgically implanted to treat a various conditions. 今天,许多人造医用装置通过手术植入体内治疗各种疾病,这些装置包括人工关节(如髋关节和膝关节)、心脏起搏器、心脏瓣膜和晶状体。

Generally speaking, Infinitive phrases acting as adverbials of purpose are usually translated into the second verb in Chinese.

B. English sentences with adverbials of manner

The sentences can be translated into sentences with verbal constructions in series. Note the order of the words in Chinese sentence. The adverbial of manner is translated into

the first action, the predicate into the second action. For example :

Infectious mononucleosis can be transmitted by kissing. 传染性单核细胞增多症可以接吻传播。“By kissing” is translated into the first predicate“接吻”,and “be transmitted” into the second one “传播”.

Minute objects too small to be seen by the unaided eye can be viewed through an optical microscope.无法用肉眼看到的微小物体可以用光学显微镜进行观察。

We already have noted that proper exercise can help control weight by burning excess body fat. 我们已经注意到适当的锻炼可以燃烧掉多余的脂肪有助于控制体重。

You may escape motion sickness by planning ahead. 你提前计划就可能避免患上晕动病。

C. English sentences with accompanying adverbial

The sentences can be translated into sentences with verbal constructions in series, the accompanying adverbial translated into the second predicate. For example :

Interleukins act on B cells, stimulating them to divide and to transform into antibody-secreting plasma cells. 白细胞介素作用于 B 细胞刺激他们分裂转变成分泌抗体的浆细胞。“act on B cells” is translated into the first action and “stimulating them” into the second action in Chinese.

Because of Alzheimer's she would awake in the morning not knowing who the man in the next bed was. 她患阿尔茨海默氏症,常常早上醒来不知道旁边床上的人是谁。

Central vision remains, making it possible to see directly ahead. 中央视力尚存可以看到正前方。

D. Compound predicates

As compound predicates show that actions take place successively, compound predicates can be translated into sentences with verbal constructions in series, and the order of the actions remains unchanged. For example :

You have been exposed to severe acute respiratory syndrome and become ill with any symptoms. 你接触了严重急性呼吸系统综合症病人患病出现了症状

Enzymes are not consumed in the reactions they catalyze and can be used over and over again. 酶在催化反应中不消耗能够反复使用。

III. PIVOTAL SENTENCES

A pivotal sentence has two predicates, the first of which has an object that serves as the subject for the second predicate. This object is called the pivot. The basic form of the pivotal sentence is as follows: Subject + predicate 1 (verb) + pivot + predicate 2. The first predicate in pivotal sentences usually expresses a request, a command, etc. Commonly used verbs include 叫、让、请、使、禁止等.) The

following kinds of sentences can be translated into pivotal sentences.

A. The sentence with the verb followed by a noun or pronoun and by (not) to and infinitive

In the sentence the infinitive is short for in order to infinitive, or object complement. For example:

The new dental appliance reduces the size of your oral cavity and forces you to take smaller mouthfuls. 新安装的牙齿矫形器减少了你口腔的容积,迫使你小口进食。“you” is translated into the pivot and “to take smaller mouthfuls” into the predicate (verb 2) following “you”.

There are different types of staining that make the chromosomes look differently. 不同类型的染色使得染色体看起来不尽相同。

Don't let blood pressure creep up during the holidays. 勿让血压在假期里缓慢上升。

Ask family and friends to practice healthy eating with you. 让家人朋友和你一起进健康饮食。

Do not allow your child to participate in amateur boxing. 不要让孩子参加业余拳击运动。

Wilson's disease is a liver disorder causing large amounts of copper to collect in various organs. 威尔逊氏病是一种肝病,导致大量的铜聚集在各器官中。

The senses of taste and smell interact closely, helping you appreciate food. 味觉和嗅觉互相作用,有助于你欣赏食物。

Have your mom or dad help you apply calamine lotion, which soothes itching. 要你的妈妈或爸爸帮你涂抹炉甘石洗剂,它能缓解瘙痒。

B. The sentence with the verb expressing approval or blame etc. (+adverbial adjunct).

The sentence can be translated into a pivotal sentence .The adverbial adjunct usually indicates the cause of the predictive verb. For example:

On behalf of everyone here in the operating room, I thank you for joining us. 我代表手术室全体人员,谢谢你加入我们团队。

In the UK somebody has accused a sexual partner of infecting him/her with HIV. 英国有人控告性伴侣把艾滋病毒传染给他/她。

We praise the brave decision of the family to donate their baby's organs. 我们赞美婴儿家人勇敢地决定捐献婴儿的器官

Sometimes kids with OCD feel afraid that bad things could possibly happen to them. 有时强迫症患者担心倒霉事会降临在自己头上。

C. *The sentence with the verb of perception followed by a noun or pronoun and by infinitive.*

The sentence is the same as the pivotal sentence in structure and semantics. Thus it is always put into a pivotal sentence.

I heard the doctor say, 'I'm sorry; the test results show that you have cancer.' 我听见医生说, '很遗憾, 化验结果表明, 你得了癌症。'

Press lightly on your abdomen and you'll feel the baby kick back. 轻按腹部, 你会感到宝宝踢你。

Many see their acne go away by the time they reach their 30s. 许多人到 30 多岁时发现痤疮消失了。

Get moving and eat your veggies every day --- to prevent cancer, stroke, and other diseases while you watch the pounds melt away. 行动起来, 每天吃蔬菜---预防癌症、中风和其他疾病, 同时还能看到赘肉消失。

Have you noticed his symptoms get worse? 你是否发现他的症状加重了?

D. *The sentence with indefinite pronoun as subject.*

When indefinite pronouns function as subject, they are often translated into 有人, 没人, which is a verb-object structure, and the predicate into predicate 2 in Chinese forming a pivotal sentence. For example:

Nobody is completely sure how much water the human body needs. 没有人完全清楚人体需要多少水。 "Nobody" Is translated into "没有人", and "is completely sure" into "完全清楚" in which 人 is used as the pivot.

Some individuals prefer to go to the gym while others are perfectly content to work out at home on their own equipment. 有人喜欢去健身房, 有人则在自家的设备上锻炼感到心满意足。

No one can predict how far a radioactive iodine cloud might spread. 没有人能预测放射性碘云可能扩散多远。

Some argue that reproductive cloning could help sterile couples fulfill their dream of parenthood. 有些人认为生殖克隆可以帮助不育夫妇实现为人父母的梦想。

E. *The sentence with the transitive verb followed by adverbial adjunct expressing purpose and result etc.*

In the sentence the object of the sentence is translated into the pivot, and the adverbial adjunct expressing purpose and result etc into the predicate 2.

Blood returning from your feet and legs has to flow upwards, so veins have valves in them to stop the blood from flowing backwards. 从脚和腿部回流的血液向上流动, 所以静脉内有瓣膜阻止血液倒流。 In this sentence there are two pivotal sentences, one being "有瓣膜阻止", another being "阻止血液倒流".

Bats should always be prevented from entering rooms of your home. 应该永远防止蝙蝠进入室内。

People should never squeeze an acne lesion. Squeezing can force bacteria deeper into the skin, where they can cause a painful infection. 绝对不能挤痤疮。挤压可以迫使细菌深入皮肤, 导致感染, 令人痛苦不堪。

A vaccine is a substance administered to humans or animals to protect them from serious diseases. 疫苗是一种给予人类或动物保护他们避免感染重病的物质。

IV. SUMMARY

This paper describes how to translate English into Chinese in detail by using sentences with verbal constructions in series and pivotal sentences. Application of some sentences with special verbal predicates peculiar to Chinese language in the translation of English into Chinese adds more methods and skills to the English-Chinese translation and enriches the theory on English-Chinese translation. However, the methods discussed in the paper can be successfully applied on the condition that the translators must have a good master of Chinese language and Chinese grammar.

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