



Finding The Methods Used To Translate Chinese Empty Words Into English: A Comprehensive Examination Of Translation Methods Based On Source Materials

Li HuiYing^{1*}, Velvizhi Murugesan²

^{1*}Research Scholar Lincoln University College Malaysia

²Lincoln University College Malaysia

Email: huiying@lincoln.edu.my

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ABSTRACT

The goal of this research is to improve the English translation of empty Chinese phrases. The original intent of this undertaking was to compile a collection of seminal works written in Chinese and their English translations. Finding out how translators deal with empty words is the goal of using this corpus. The eight separate stages of translation that are eventually recognised are: match, rewrite, shared match, implication, the process of a grammatical travel, borrowing, and omission (mismatch). The ninth procedure is mismatch. Experts in the subject agree that Grammatical Conveyance is a huge step forward. Researchers will assess the level of adoption of particular processes and non-procedures, including loaning and shared matching, as they go forward. Translation of Chinese empty words into English is an apparent consequence of this study, which also has the potential to provide two other important findings. This research is groundbreaking since it is the first of its kind to thoroughly examine how translators handle empty words in Chinese and to make an inventory of all of them. Researchers found that coping with empty phrases was most difficult in the adverbial and particle sentence categories. Simply said, "meaningless platitudes aren't as tricky to decipher as previously held beliefs would have you believe."

Keywords: *Grammatical Conveyance, Amplification, Distinct Translation*

Introduction

The publications of former academics on translation techniques or strategies for European language pairings or translation from Chinese to English attracted the attention of contemporary researchers in discovering the precise processes that are required to convert Chinese empty words into English. Due to the fact that he was fluent in both Chinese and English, the researcher believed that he might make a substantial contribution to the field of translation by concentrating on translation from Chinese to English. The researcher was also inspired to perform this study in the hopes of identifying fresh translation processes. This is due to the fact that Chinese is distinct from the bulk of European languages in terms of grammar, culture, writing system, and phrasing (Baker,2019).

The researcher drew inspiration from David Pollard's "Empty Words: Modal Adverbs" and used Chinese empty words as objects of investigation. Although they are often used, Pollard found that modal adverbs—meaningless filler words—are infamously difficult to translate. The difficulties he had while pursuing this goal are also emphasised in this analysis. In order to get a better understanding of how translators deal with nebulous terminology, the researcher sought my opinion.

It is his hope that I would be able to resolve the issue via my inquiry. Another important aspect is that, as far as he is aware, no one has ever simultaneously compared the English and Chinese versions of all empty words.

Because it is the pioneering study in its field, my work will undoubtedly make a mark on translation studies(Tang,2017).

Background Of The Study

One of the key tasks of "translation theory" is to explore the age-old issue of equivalent; nevertheless, the phrase "translation studies" is often used in modern times. "Translation theory" is considered to be an offshoot of the research that academics have conducted on the events that take place during the process of translating and interpreting. Some academics are beginning to mix research on translation with other subjects in order to broaden the scope of the study of translations outside the context of the dispute between literal and free translation. This is done in order to give fresh viewpoints and methodologies. The influence that translation has on the original text is a contentious issue in the field of linguistics; Catford, for example, is the one who first brought it up. When they talk about shifts, they are referring to the modifications and alterations that translators have to do since the grammatical structures and phrasing of the two languages are different from one another (Hatim,2018). Even-Zohar posits that the literature, politics, religion, and economics of a society are all subsystems that contribute to the formation of the polycystic of that community. The ancient proverb states that "their interactions are not random but mainly defined by their location in the total to which they belong," and within a polycystic, the subsystems are dependent on one another. There are a variety of subsystems that are situated at varying distances from the central component of the integrated system. The opposite is also true: various civilizations may assign varying levels of importance on the same subsystem. In addition, polyesters, which are from various societies, have a relationship to one another as well as a distinct status. Using this as a foundation, Even-Zohar analyses the ways in which the state of the target polycystic and language itself impact the approaches that translators use. An investigation on the relative benefits of human and machine translation has been carried out by Sager. The argument made by Diaz-Cintas is that the need for training subtitles is growing in unison with the expansion of the audiovisual translation sector (Malmkjær,2019).

Purpose Of The Research

Translating Chinese empty words into English is the focus of this study, which aims to examine the translation processes used. The first step in trying to figure out how translators deal with meaningless terms is to look at examples from a body of Chinese literature and English translations that was developed for this very reason. By the conclusion, eight distinct translation processes have been identified. Here are the procedures: (8) Omission, (7) Borrowing, (6) Grammatical Conveyance, (5) Amplification, (7) Shared Match, (4) Implication, and (2) Match. The only step that doesn't take place is the ninth one, called Mismatch. A new method based on the study of Grammatical Conveyance has just come to light. Checking the percentages of these procedures (Shared Match and Borrowing) will reveal which one has been put into place the most and which one has been put into place the least. Two more significant outcomes of this research are the identification of likely translation errors and the transformation of Chinese unused phrases into English. The primary contribution of this study is that it is the first of its type to investigate simultaneous approaches to translating all Chinese empty words. Secondly, the results show that empty sentences comprised in adverbs and components are the most challenging. Contrary to what some other experts have said, meaningless words are not hard to understand. (Olohan,2016).

Literature Review

Although the term "translation studies" has lately acquired popularity, "translation theory" is still regarded to be an offshoot of academics' studies of translation and translation processes. The fundamental objective of translation theory is to delve more deeply into the topic of equivalent, which has been around for a long time. In order to take the study of translation beyond the dispute between literal and free translation, some academics are beginning to merge translation studies with other subjects (Bowker,2018). This is done in order to bring fresh views and research methodologies to the field of translation studies. As an example, Catford initiates a linguistic debate over the modifications that take place when information is translated from one language to another. When they talk about shifts, they are referring to the modifications and alterations that translators have to do since the grammatical structures and phrasing of the two languages are different from one another. According to Even-Zohar,the distinctive polysystem of each society is comprised of a number of subsystems, including those that belong to literature, politics, religion, and economics.

As a result of their interdependence, the subsystems that make up a polysystem "their interactions are not random but mainly defined by their location in the total to which they belong," as Chang described it. Certain subsystems are more significant than others, and the degree to which they are all linked changes from one subsystem to the next. There is a possibility that various cultures will put varying degrees of importance on the same subsystem. Relationships and distinct statuses are also present in polysystems, which are comprised of several civilizations. In accordance with this line of reasoning, Even-Zohar analyses the ways in which the state of the target polysystem and translation as a subsystem influence the strategies that translators use. An investigation of the debate between human translation and computer translation is presented by Sager.

According to Diaz-Cintas, the need for subtitler training is growing in unison with the expansion of the audiovisual translation sector (Cohen, 2019).

Research Questions

- What interesting phenomena may we find in the study results?
- Where does the process of translated between Chinese and English take place in the Gulf area?
- What types of processes are engaged in this process?
- From broad patterns of translation methods, what overarching strategies may be deduced in English-Chinese?

Research Methodology

The purpose of this investigation is to become aware of the processes that were used by examining all of the translations of Chinese terms that are considered to be empty. The cornerstone of this research is a Chinese-English parallel corpus that was constructed specifically for this investigation. In addition to this, it has investigated the frequency with which various translation techniques are used across a variety of empty word classes in order to determine whether or not the most prevalent procedures differ from one class to another.

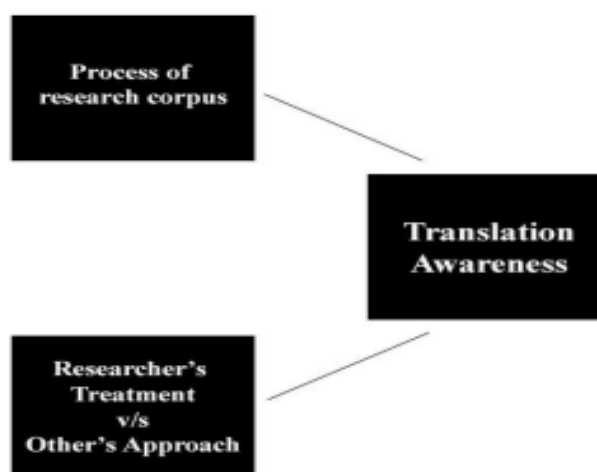
Research Design

A corpus cannot serve any purpose adequately if it is generated from a random sample of data because translation methods and decisions at every linguistic stage are highly sensitive to the specific combination of the genre and topics that is actualized in any particular source text. This is because of the fact that the corpus is meant to be used for translation purposes. It is of more significance that the corpus be organized in such a way that it is a balanced and meaningful sample of the data that is already available. This is due to the fact that it is very difficult to establish a corpus that encompasses all of the prospective data. As an instance, if the objective is to construct a machine translation system for pharmaceutical literature, then the data that is used in the construction of the corpus should not represent chemistry but rather that particular field. In addition to this, it is necessary for it to locate a balance between the data that is provided by the several large manufacturers and the numerous other types of writing that provide information on medicines.

Data Analysis

The resources that have been translated for this project need to satisfy all three of the following criteria: The following three characteristics are shared by each of these three different renditions: Firstly, they are literary works that are either in the form of prose, poetry, or fiction; secondly, they are influenced by modern Chinese literature; and thirdly, the translators are native English speakers. Out of the 63 volumes of Renditions, researcher have chosen the 62 manuscripts that they hold in the highest regard as being the most suitable for meeting these requirements.

Conceptual Framework



Result

The researcher went into great length about the study methodology in Chapter 3. The texts in my study corpus were produced in contemporary Chinese and come from a variety of literary genres. The translations were done by translators who are native English speakers. The study materials are from *Renditions*, a Chinese translation publication. Seven tables, one for each category of empty words, include 7581 samples from a corpus constructed over these specific texts: The first seven categories are: adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, particles, interjections, compounds, and structures. Nine unique therapies were found after these instances were analysed, eight of which included translation techniques and one of which did not. There are eight types of matches: match, paraphrasing, shared match, implied, amplification, grammatical conveyance, borrowing, and omission. Mismatch is the non-procedure. A translation that deviates from the source text cannot be deemed legitimate since the term "procedure" connotes a systematic and deliberate flow of actions. It was the works of Vinay & Darbelnet, Nida, Retsker, Newmark, Malone, Chesterman, Munday, Loh, Liu, and Su that first aroused my interest in studying the methods used to translate Chinese empty words into English. In the chapter on literature review, we talk about these academics' perspectives on translating processes. However, these experts rely heavily on SL and TL materials produced in European languages for their research. Several theories are supported by texts from European languages in Malone's illustrations, Chesterman's techniques are based on German and English texts, and Munday's V diagram is a collection of ideas from several researchers, all of whom derived their theories from texts from European languages. Only the research by Loh, Liu, and Su relied on an English-Chinese translation out of all the sources I found. Since this is the case, I think it would be prudent to look at the processes that went into translating between the two languages to learn more about them, their impacts, and any fresh perspectives that may emerge. Although I may not have followed their exact procedures, my study is founded on the views of these twelve scholars. This is because, unlike my work, their research intends to explore translation at both the word and sentence levels. Furthermore, I need to check that the examples I'm using in my study are consistent with my technique.

Match

As soon as the researcher finds a target term that is quite similar to the source empty word, they call it a Match. With all the debate around the often used word "equivalency," the researchers in this study opted to use the term "match" instead. An "equivalence" can mean "the nature and the extent of the relationships which exist between SL and TL texts or smaller linguistic unit" (Shuttleworth & Cowie), which is different from what Vinay and Darbelnet mean when they say that two translations are stylistically equivalent but otherwise entirely different. Among the many contentious issues in the field of academic translation studies, equalisation stands out. From the more well-known and long-standing literal translation vs. free translation to the more contemporary bilingual, interlingual, and inters miotic transformation, it has been explored by several theologians, academics, and translators for millennia. Some examples of these concepts include: formal connection vs. textual equivalent, formal similarity vs. dynamic equivalence, Kade's total, facultative, rough estimates and zero similarity, Koller's five types of equivalence (denotative, associated, text-normative, sensible, and formal aesthetic equivalence), and the scopes theory written by Reiss and Vermeer. Eliminating the notion entirely is a goal of some modern philosophers. The work of these scholars is very distinct, even though they have all looked for terminology and equivalence procedures online. Symmetry, reversibility, and being equivalent in two words or phrases are some of the ways that people define equivalent. Some theories argue that equivalence is achieved when the source meaning is conveyed and the function is performed, even when the goal texts cannot be an exact replica of the source texts. Following this line of thinking, translators should weigh the pros and disadvantages of each possible translation of a given text before settling on one. While the concept of "equivalence" is still hotly debated, I choose to use the more neutral word match" in my argument.

Word Class	Text Title & Issue Number	Translator	Source Text	Published Translation	Translation for Comparison
Structure	Marx Enters the Confucian Temple/51	Matthew Finbeiner & Timothy Wixted	而這力量的形式起初是以國家為單位...	Moreover, this force will first take the state as its unit...	Moreover, this force will first take the state as its unit...
Interjection	Waves Scour the Sands/63	Fran Martin	嘿，那天你怎麼說走就真走...	Hey , how come you ran off so suddenly the other night?	Hey , how come you ran off so suddenly the other night?
Preposition	Good morning, Friends/31	Mark Kruger	算命的腦子比電子計算機還快...	The fortune teller's mind worked faster than a computer...	The fortune teller's mind worked faster than a computer...
Adverb	Father's Last Two Days/38	Harriet Clompus	井上先生終於清楚地領悟了...	Kiyoshi Inoue finally realized...	Kiyoshi Inoue finally realized...
Compound	Dream the Fifteenth/61	T. M. McClellan	怪不得你不在乎...	No wonder you treat money lightly...	No wonder you treat money lightly...

Discussion

Additional approaches will be discussed in the sections that follow. Here are five instances of empty words from various areas. Specifically, I think it's important to note that the five examples chosen for each section represent the kind of problems that need further investigation. There is obviously a high level of correspondence between the five empty words' translations. The translations in the first three instances might be argued to be word-for-word reproductions of the originals. "Hei" (hello) and "Hey" are almost identical translations. Such interjections often serve as sentence starters and are sure to attract the reader's attention. I would add that you may use the same pronunciation for each of them. Translated from English to Chinese, such a near-identical match is astounding. There is a third sort of scenario when the translated words and the original empty words are almost identical, although the previous two examples are considered to be generally similar. Despite small differences in pronunciation and meaning, the original and translated forms of 濫...為... (yi...wei...: take...as...) and 比 (bi: than) serve comparable functions, are used in the same context, and are placed in the same part of a phrase. Their status as Match is so further enhanced. Both of the later instances are still considered Matches since they serve the same purpose and communicate the same concept. The meaning of 終於, which translates to "finally," is that someone has, after devoting a considerable amount of time and energy, ultimately discovered the solution to a problem or achieved their intended outcome. Since the English and Spanish words "finally" imply the same thing, this is an example of a Match. In relation to the above example, it is common for people to mistake the useless expression 怪不得 (guai bu de: no wonder) for another word in Chinese, 難怪 (nan guai: no wonder). This is why, when translated from English, the two terms always mean the same thing. The English term "no wonder" is often used to translate 難怪 because it is the most commonly used word with the same meaning. "No wonder" may even be seen as a trend among translators working between Chinese and English. In these situations, translators often blend 怪不得 with 難怪, leaving it as "no wonder." So, we're going to call this a Match. Based on these five instances, it's clear that the Match process is used in circumstances when the lexical form is preserved, the content is conveyed, and the function is fulfilled in a way that is substantially close to the original.

The first need is satisfied, for example, by the one-word exclamation 嘿 (hei) in Chinese and its English equivalent, "hey," which are both used at the beginning of sentences.

Second, there has to be a high level of consistency between the ST and TT definitions. The original text's intended meaning is what "meaning" here refers to. Take the empty word "sui ran" (雖然) from Chinese as an example. It means "although" in English. So, it means the same thing as the English word "although." Finally, a ST's correspondent should consistently produce work that closely resembles the original. Here, "function" is the desired outcome or response that the author of the original text was going for. One may use either "嘿" or "hey" to get the attention of listeners. When all three conditions are satisfied, the TT is said to be very near to its ST. On the other hand, meeting the first need is difficult due to the language barrier between Chinese and English.

According to my findings, in order for a Chinese empty word's English translation to be a match, the second and third conditions must be satisfied.

Conclusion

The researcher stated that it would be ideal to employ meaningless Chinese phrases as special study material in order to focus on processes of translation throughout the process of transcription from Chinese to English. This would allow for the most accurate identification of translation processes. The twelve academics whose work is widely acknowledged in this thesis are simply a tiny sampling of other researchers who have arrived at comparable results from investigations involving diverse language pairs. A huge number of researchers have reached similar conclusions. The treatments that may be found in translations from English to Chinese served as the basis for Vinay and Darbelnet's compilation of a list of translation techniques.

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