

TRANSLATION OF FALSE FRIENDS

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Annotation: This article will explore complexities of translating "false friends" and challenges in translation process and give some information for avoiding some errors in the process of translating false friends.

Key words: false friends, idiomatic expression, cultural coherence, bilingual dictionaries.

INTRODUCTION

False friends are word pairings in two different languages that appear to have a similar phonetic form, but in reality have entirely different meanings, origins and spelling. For example: the German word "enkel", although pronounced nearly the same as English word "ankle", means "grandchild". So if you roll your ankle in Germany and ask for help with your "enkel", you may confuse a few people.

Examples of false friends:

1. Librairie (French) and Library (English): In French, librairie means book shop, compared to the English "library", which refers to a place where books are borrowed.

2. Eventuellement (French) and Eventually (English): In French, "eventuellement" means "possibly" or "maybe", which in English "eventually" is translated as "finally" or "ultimately". Confusing these two terms could lead to incorrect interpretations in a given context.

3. Actuellement (French) and Actually (English): In French "actuellement" means "at the moment", while in English "actually" means "in reality". Using one instead of the other could lead to total confusion.

4. Sympathie (French) and Sympathy (English): In French "sympathie" means having positive feelings towards someone, while in English "sympathy" translates to "compassion" or "pity". Thus, using the word "sympathy" in English to express a simple appreciation towards someone can lead to confusion.

5. Sensible (French) and Sensible (English): In French, "sensible" means "sensitive" or "emotional", while in English "sensible" is translated as "prudent" or "reasonable". An inappropriate translation could completely change the tone of a sentence.

In the multilingual world of translation and interpretation one of the most challenging aspects is dealing with "false friends". These are words from different languages that sound similar but have completely different meanings. Misinterpreting false friends can lead to significant communication errors, confusion and even offense.

MAIN BODY

The phenomenon of so called "false friends" is a familiar one to translators. They are defined as words or expressions which have the same form in two or more languages but convey different meanings. They are often associated with historically or culturally related languages such as English, French and German (Baker 1992: 25)

Baker discusses false friends as one example of non-equivalence among languages and regard them as a possible problem area for translators and language learners. An interesting point she makes is that if the meaning of the false friends in the two languages are far apart, they are unlikely to cause problems, but if the two meanings, as often happens have something in common there is a danger of confusion:

Some false friends are easy to spot because the difference in their meaning is so great that only a very inexperienced translator is likely to be unaware of it. An experienced French and German translator may, however, confuse English "sensible"

with German "sensible" (meaning "sensitive") or English "sympathetic" with French "sympathique" (meaning "nice/likeable"). (Baker 1992: 25-6)

How to avoid false friends?

1. Examine idiomatic expressions: Idiomatic expression can pose translation challenges because their meaning cannot always be deduced literally. Getting familiar with idiomatic expressions in both languages is essential to avoid translation errors.

2. Emphasize cultural coherence: Understanding cultural differences is just as important as linguistic proficiency. A word that can be perfectly suitable in one cultural context may be inappropriate in another. Translators must therefore take into account cultural nuances to ensure accurate communication.

3. Conduct in depth research: Before starting translation it is essential to conduct thorough research on the context of the text. Understanding the exact meaning of words in their cultural and linguistic context helps to avoid errors.

4. Consult reliable bilingual dictionaries: Using reputable bilingual dictionaries is an effective way to identify and avoid false friends

5. Analyse the register of the language: False friends can sometimes hide in the register. It is crucial to understand the tone, style and formality of the original text in order to choose appropriate equivalents in the target language.

6. Ask for advice from native speakers: Collaborating with native speakers of the target language can offer valuable insights. Their intuitive understanding of the language can help identify nuances that may escape even the most detailed dictionaries.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, translation is an art that goes beyond the substitution of words from one language to another. Avoiding false friends requires a deep understanding of the languages involved, as well as sensitivity to cultural differences. By being rigorous and using reliable resources, translators can overcome these linguistic obstacles to deliver accurate and faithful translations. Understanding and avoiding false friends is crucial for accurate translation and interpretation. By being aware of common false friends,

utilizing technological aids and investing in continuous training translators and interpreters can enhance their accuracy and effectiveness.

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