Comparison between Conversion in English Word Formation and Translation

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Abstract. In the theory and practice of English word formation and English-Chinese translation, a method will be mentioned, that is, conversion. In English word formation, transformation is an important method and way to expand vocabulary, which can change the syntactic function of vocabulary. In modern English, it seems more convenient to convert one part of speech into another part of speech, so it is common. In the practice of English Chinese translation, some sentences can be translated word for word, while others are not. In these sentences, some words need part of speech conversion to make the translation smooth and natural and convey the exact meaning of the original text.

Keywords: Conversion; English Word; Translation

1. Introduction

In the long history of English development, due to the basic disappearance of the inflection of most words, a new word formation method, transformation method, has been derived. This method has become the most simple and effective way of word formation in modern English. It does not change the form of words, but changes words from one part of speech to another, so that words have new meaning and function and become a new word. This word formation is called conversion. The characteristic of this word formation is that it can realize the conversion of parts of speech without the help of affixes (Lu Guoqiang, 1999:21). Therefore, this word formation is also called derivation by zero suffix, which is referred to as "zero derivation". For example, fax (fax) can be directly transformed from a noun into a verb to fax (fax) without any formal change.

In English word formation, several prominent manifestations of transformation include: noun attribute, such as danger zone, depth charge; Recipient country; Nouns are transformed into verbs. For example, the noun trap is transformed into the verb to target, and the noun brainstorm is transformed into the verb to brainstorm; The verb is transformed into a noun, for example, the verb "law" is transformed into the noun "a law"; Adjectives are transformed into nouns, such as the poor, the rich, the redundant, the condensed.

Most simple words in English vocabulary can be transformed into parts of speech. For example, most monosyllabic nouns have verbs with the same form, such as: Chase n. → to chase v; sight n. →to sight v.; Search n. → to search v. etc. However, derivations in the real sense can not be converted because they have affixes that clearly indicate the part of speech. More compounds are converted into classes than derivatives. Compound words are usually composed of two monosyllabic words, such as: spotlight n. → to spotlight v; Blacklist n. → to blacklist v; To break down → break down; To stand still → standstill, etc. are transformed from nouns into verbs or verb phrases into nouns. Transformation is considered to be one of the most powerful methods of word formation in English. No matter what part of speech is, a considerable part of the vocabulary can be transformed into new words.

2. Part of speech conversion in English Chinese Translation

The essence of translation is to convert one language into another. Its purpose is to accurately convert all the information of the source language into the target language and achieve the maximum equivalent effect. English and Chinese belong to different language families. The characters, vocabulary, grammar and ways of expression of the two languages have their own forms

and characteristics, and there are great differences in language structure and means of expression. Therefore, in the process of English Chinese translation, translating word by word according to the parts of speech of the original text will often make the translation stiff and awkward, with a "translation ese". Therefore, in some cases, in order to make the translation more in line with the expression habits and laws of Chinese, on the premise of being faithful to the original text, the parts of speech must be properly transformed in order to make the translation smooth, natural, smooth and appropriate.

Part of speech conversion is a common processing method in translation. Part of speech conversion refers to the conversion of a certain kind of words in the source language into another kind of words in the target language in the actual process of translation. (Lin Huangtian 1998:104) the purpose of part of speech conversion is to transcend the language form of the source language, so that the target language can not only faithfully convey the content of the original text, but also conform to the grammar and rhetorical habits of the target language. For example, in English Chinese and French Chinese translation, because different languages have great differences in vocabulary composition and usage habits, word by word translation is almost impossible. Therefore, it is very necessary to flexibly carry out part of speech conversion. Theoretically speaking, as long as it is for the need of expression, any part of speech conversion is allowed. In the process of English learning, English learners are required to master the ability to clearly distinguish nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, pronouns and other parts of speech. This should be an advantage for an English learner, but overemphasizing the concept of part of speech in English-Chinese translation may become an obstacle for the translator. Because English-Chinese translation is the conversion between English and Chinese, the concept can be expressed with a noun in English. Translation into Chinese may be expressed with a verb, or it may be expressed with only one verb. Part of speech conversion in English Chinese translation is a translation method that converts a part of speech in the source language into another part of speech in the target language. The classification of English parts of speech can be divided into 10 categories, while Chinese parts of speech can be divided into 12 categories. Noun-名词, Verb-动词, Adjective-形容词, Adverb-副词, Numeral-数词, Pronoun-代词, Preposition-介词（前置词）, Conjunction-连词, Article-××, ××-量词, ××-助词, ××-语气词, Interjection叹词.

In translation practice, the purpose of using part of speech conversion, a translation skill and method, is to avoid copying the structure of the original text and making the translation difficult to understand. It is that the sentences of the translation are smooth, clear, in line with grammatical norms and language habits and easy to understand. Therefore, the translator should faithfully reflect the internal essence of the original text as the premise, in accordance with the grammatical norms and language habits of the target language as the basis, analyze specific problems, and use this translation method according to local conditions. The common phenomena of part of speech conversion in English Chinese translation include: the conversion of nouns, gerunds and verb object structures representing verb actions into verbs or adjectives; Converting prepositions into verbs or adverbs; Conversion of verbs into nouns or adjectives; Conversion of adjectives into adverbs and so on.

Although the use of nouns is second to none in both English and Chinese, the two languages also maintain their own characteristics in the use of nouns. From the perspective of grammatical structure, in English, which is often called "structural language", a sentence often has only one predicate verb, so nouns are used more; In Chinese, which is often called "logical English", a sentence can often use several verbs or verb phrases, so verbs are used more. In terms of word formation, a considerable number of English nouns are derived from verbs (e.g. set → settlement, retrieve → retrieval), just like line words (e.g. research is both a noun and a verb) or cognate words (e.g. sight and see). For the above reasons, many English nouns can be converted into verbs in Chinese in the process of translation. Translators can deal with it according to the specific text and situation, and implement flexible part of speech conversion.

English Chinese translation is also a process of converting verbs into nouns. They have been defeated by the experiments. Translation: 它们成了试验的牺牲品. Among them, "victimize" is derived from the noun victim, so it is transformed into a noun in Chinese in the process of translation. At the same time, in order to maintain the integrity of sentence structure, the corresponding verbs are added to the translation. From the perspective of word formation, this phenomenon is because in the development of English history, a certain number of verbs are derived or transformed from nouns. In the process of translating these words, it is often difficult for translators to find the corresponding Chinese verbs, so it is necessary to restore this kind of verbs to famous words.

3. Comparison between English word formation and English Chinese Translation

Language is an infinitely generated system. The purpose of translation is to accurately convey the meaning of the original text in the target language. According to the American translation theorist Eugene A. Nida's view of functional equivalence (Nida, 2003:14), the target language should be equivalent to the original text in language function, rather than corresponding to the original text in language form. In Nida's view, translation is to reproduce the information in the original text in the most natural way in the target language, first to reproduce the meaning, and then the style (Nida 2003:12). The best translation is that it should not read like translation. In order to make the source language equal to the target language and make the target language natural and fluent, we must break through the constraints of the original language structure on translators. In other words, what translation pursues is not the equivalence of language, but the equivalence of language function. Nida's theory has brought the translation industry into a bright realm. Therefore, the process of translation is the process of transmitting the information of the original text. As long as it can truly convey the information of the original text, it is not so important to pay attention to the change of parts of speech of language vocabulary. However, an in-depth understanding of the similarities and differences between the two languages in word selection and sentence formation will help translators accurately complete the mission of conveying the original information.

The transformation of English word formation and the transformation of part of speech in English-Chinese translation are both language phenomena. The phenomenon of conversion in English word formation is relatively common, resulting in a considerable number of conversion words; In the process of English Chinese translation, the proper use of part of speech transformation can produce a natural translation. The two kinds of conversion methods / part of speech conversion (conversion) are based on the needs of sentences and expressions. On the basis of not changing the basic meaning of vocabulary and not through any way of morphological change, they choose the required part of speech.

4. Problems in current research and the author's suggestions

In the current research, conversion in English word formation is discussed and explained in detail in various textbooks and monographs; There are also detailed descriptions of part of speech conversion in English Chinese translation in various tutorials, textbooks and monographs, but the comparative analysis of the two is rare. Few researchers have explored and studied part of speech conversion in translation from the perspective of lexicology. In addition, there are some gaps in the description of the theoretical basis of part of speech conversion in translation.

Is there a certain relationship between English word formation and English Chinese translation? Should we consider the word formation characteristics of the two languages and flexibly use the part of speech conversion method in translation practice? It is suggested that scholars make a comparative analysis of the conversion method in English word formation and the conversion

method in English-Chinese translation, so as to explore the relationship and characteristics between them. In order to provide some reference and help for English learners and translators

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