

A Study on the Translation of Petroleum Economic and Trade Texts from Vocabulary Level

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Abstract: With the continuous expansion of economic globalization, China's petroleum economic and trade exchanges with various nations have become increasingly frequent. The lexical characteristics of petroleum economic and trade texts are professional, concise and interdisciplinary. The translation should ensure the accuracy in the translation of petroleum economic and trade texts. The translation employs translation methods including transliteration, literal translation, free translation and zero translation. The application of these translation methods can improve the vocabulary translation accuracy in petroleum economic and trade texts.

Keywords: Petroleum Economic and Trade Texts; Lexical Characteristic; Translation Method.

1. Introduction

With the development of the global petroleum industry, the translation of petroleum economic and trade texts has become increasingly significant. Petroleum economic and trade texts provides vital information for trade exchanges. The translation of petroleum economic and trade texts helps to understand the developmental trends of foreign petroleum industries, enhancing domestic and international cooperation in the petroleum industry, and promoting the development of China's petroleum industry. This paper focus on analyzing the lexical characteristics of petroleum economic and trade texts and exploring the translation methods.

1.1. Overview of Petroleum Economy and Trade Texts

Petroleum economic and trade English belongs to the category of scientific and technological English. Scientific and technological English mainly aims at transferring text information. There still exists many differences between Chinese and English in the petroleum industry, such as cultural background, language structure and official requirements. According to the characteristics of professional, interdisciplinary and concise, it's necessary to use scientific translation methods. The petroleum economic and trade texts are highly professional. The texts aim to convey information to readers, which can not only ensure that readers can read smoothly, but also enable readers to accurately obtain the information. The texts are logical and concise, which requires the translator to accurately get the logical relationship of the original text.

1.2. The Purpose and Significance of this Study

This paper focuses on analyzing the lexical characteristics of petroleum economic and trade texts. Then based on these characteristics, translation methods can be used in the translation of petroleum economic and trade texts. The research of petroleum economic and trade texts is less. So it's important to research the vocabulary of petroleum economic and trade texts. The translation methods and translation skills are required in the translation process. Deeply analyze the lexical characteristics and translation problems of the texts, pursue the accurate translation of the vocabulary, properly

convey the original texts information, and show the strictness and professionalism of the petroleum economic and trade texts.

2. The Lexical Characteristics of Petroleum Economic and Trade Texts

The petroleum economic and trade texts are professional, and the vocabularies are characterized with professional, concise and interdisciplinary. There are many specialized vocabulary and terminologies in the petroleum economic and trade texts, which spreads professional and authoritative economic information. Many abbreviations and compound words exist in the petroleum economic and trade texts.

2.1. Professionalism

Zhen (2016) claimed that petroleum terminologies reflect the professionalism of petroleum English. Terminology plays an essential part in the translation process. Terminization of common vocabulary is an important feature of petroleum English. In the petroleum economic and trade texts, many common words can be turned into terminologies. They lose some part of former meaning and retain the relevant meaning of the words. Sometimes it is absolutely different from the original meaning.

2.2. Conciseness

Han (2016) claimed that the lexical characteristics of petroleum economic and trade texts are concise and accurate. It stresses using the less words to convey the large information. The abbreviation and compound words extensively involve in the petroleum economic and trade text, which devotes to reflect the concise of petroleum economic and trade vocabulary.

2.2.1. Compound Words

The extensive use of compound words is also one of the characteristics of petroleum economic and trade texts. Compound words are connecting two or more than two words into a new word. In the petroleum economic and trade texts, most compound words are divided without hyphen such as onshore, offshore. There are also other compound words. They add affix including prefix and suffix to form a new word,

which is one of the characteristics of petroleum economic and trade texts. Most compound words employ literal translation method. (Zhan Hai& Liu Shuzhan, 2008, 276)

2.2.2. Abbreviations

In petroleum economic and trade texts, a large number of abbreviations are frequently used. Acronyms are commonly used in the petroleum economic and trade texts. It contributes to use less words to express a plenty of information. It embodies the conciseness of petroleum economic and trade text. The abbreviations are often used in the following areas.

Firstly abbreviations are used in the petroleum companies, institutions and organizations such as API (America Petroleum Institute)美国石油学会, OPEC(Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries)石油输出国家组织、IPE (International Petroleum Exchange)伦敦国际石油交易所。

Secondly, abbreviations are frequently used in currency and measuring unit. Many contracts involve in the petroleum trade exchanges. In order to facilitate crude trade, they use abbreviations to take place of the full name of currency and measuring unit in the trade agreement, contracts and so on. Such as USD (United States Dollar)美元, M/T (Metric Ton)公吨, b/l (barrel per day)桶/日, kg/L (kilogram/Litre)千克每升。

Thirdly, in the petroleum economic and trade texts, interdisciplinary vocabularies often show up with abbreviations with single and fixed meaning, which makes the language expression more accurate, clear and concise. Such as EFP (exchange of futures for physical)期转现、CFD (contract for differences)差额合约、FOB(free on board) 离岸价、CIF(cost, insurance and freight)到岸价。(Yuan Sen. and Zhang Jie, 2023, 4)

2.3. Interdisciplinarity

Zhen (2016) believed that the petroleum economic and trade texts involves petroleum physical property, price, markets, contracts and laws. The vocabulary of petroleum economic and trade texts is characterized with interdisciplinary. The petroleum economic and trade texts also involves accounting and trade. The trade, financial and petroleum chemical words are often engaged in the petroleum economic and trade texts. They involve many proper nouns and common vocabulary. When translate these words, translators should learn the industry knowledge, extensive meaning and the background of the texts.

3. Lexical Translation Methods of Petroleum Economic and Trade Texts

The petroleum economic and trade texts belongs to informative texts, which aims to convey pieces of information. Based on the different lexical characteristics including professional, concise and interdisciplinary, the following translation methods are used in the process of translation in the petroleum economic and trade texts.

3.1. Transliteration

Example 1: In 1983 for example, an Opec meeting was taking place in London.

例如1983年, 在伦敦召开了一个欧佩克会议。

“OPEC”is an acronym, and its full name is “Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries”. It can be translated as

“石油输出国组织、欧佩克”。 The translation version“欧佩克”can be regarded as the result of transliteration. It is a petroleum organization of many countries.

Example 2: One might think that the supply and use of services such as Reuters, Bridge Telerate, Platt's and others are manifestations of modern technology.

您或许认为诸如路透社、香港桥讯财经资讯、普氏和其他信息服务是现代技术。

“Platts” is a company about crude oil pricing. The Reuters and Bridge Telerate are also the third company to quote the crude oil. In this sentence, the “Platt's” can be translated as “普氏、普氏报价”using transliteration.

Through these examples, when translating some institutions, organizations and company, the transliteration can be used, which provides greater convenience for the readers. It helps the target readers to understand the meaning.

3.2. Literal Translation

Example 3: Indonesia exports about 800,000 b/d of its 1.6 million b/d production of crude and condensate.

印度尼西亚原油160万桶/日总产量中的大约80万桶/日的原油及凝析油用于出口。

Example 4: Congo produces 270,000b/d of crude oil ranging in gravity from 22.3° to 36.9°API from a number of offshore and onshore fields.

刚果海上和陆上油田数目众多, 出产的原油API度从22.3~36.9°, 产量约27万桶/日。

Through above examples, we can find that the currency and measuring units often use the literal translation. Some compound words also use the literal translation. According to the characteristics of compound words, it often constituted by two or more than two words. When translating, translators should separate the compound words firstly, then use literal translation.

3.3. Free Translation

Example 5:Arbitrage was the key factor facilitating oil trade and Brent and WTI futures helped manage that risk, feeding off each other and growing the open interest in both contracts.

TT:套利是促进石油交易的关键因素, 布伦特和西德克萨斯中质原油期货帮助管理这种风险, 彼此互动, 推动了两个合约的未平仓合约增加。

Through Investopedia we find that Open interest is the total number of outstanding derivative contracts for an asset -such as options or futures-that have not been settled. It is a petroleum terminology with fixed meaning. In the petroleum economic and trade texts, “open interest”can be translated into “未平仓合约”.

Example 6: Prices on the futures markets are quoted second by second via live feed from the exchanges to the screen services which then sell this information to their subscribers.

交易所里期货价格在不停变化, 而数据提供商从期货交易所获取这些实时数据, 通过他们提供的终端显示器将信息卖给他们的订阅者。

“Screen” means “屏幕”. “services” is like “服务机构”. Further, “screen services” can be translated as “交易所”. According to the text, it's on the future markets. So the “screen services” translated as “期货交易所”

According to the examples, free translation often used in situation of the termination of common words. They

sometimes retain the original meaning, and they also turn into the new words in the petroleum economic and trade texts. As for these words, translators need to know the background of financial and trade, only in this way can they accurately translate the texts. The free translation is essential in the translation process to avoid mislead the readers.

3.4. Zero Translation

Example 7: The new 500,000 b/d Shaybah field is expected onstream in mid-1998 and its light (41.5°API) low sulphur crude will be blended with Arab Light (Berri).

新开发的产量为50万桶/日的谢巴赫油田，预计将于1998年中投产输油，该油田的41.5°API低硫原油将会混入阿拉伯超轻质原油（贝里原油）

In this sentence, “API” is the abbreviation of American Petroleum Institute. The API index has the important meaning for the petroleum classification, production and transportation. It is the public standard in the petroleum industry, so the zero translation can be used.

4. Summary

It's not difficult to find that petroleum economic and trade texts often use abbreviation, terminologies, common words and compound words. By analyzing the lexical characteristics of petroleum economic and trade texts, the vocabulary is characterized with professional, concise and interdisciplinary.

Combining the feature of vocabulary, understanding the common words accurately in the petroleum economic and trade texts are very important in the translation process. Translation methods including free translation, literal translation, transliteration and zero translation can be also used to improve the translation quality.

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