Research on English Translation Strategies in Legal Applications

Yunlei Du

China University of Petroleum (East China), Qingdao, 266555, China

Abstract: The laws of each country have their own unique concepts, and even if the legal system is so similar as that of China and Germany, there are still many legal concepts that cannot completely overlap in connotation. For example, the Rechtsgeschäfte in the German civil law is inconsistent with the civil legal acts in the general principles of China's civil law, which only includes legal legal acts. In recent years, with the increase of legal and cultural exchanges with foreign countries in China, many problems have arisen in legal translation, such as spelling and grammar errors, and errors in the translation of legal terms. As a legal translator, you should have a correct attitude, be conscientious and responsible, and translate high-quality translations.

Keywords: Legal translation; English translation; Legal Issues.

1. Introduction

The laws of each country have their own unique concepts, and even if the legal system is so similar as that of China and Germany, there are still many legal concepts that cannot completely overlap in connotation. For example, the Rechtsgeschäfte in the German civil law is inconsistent with the civil legal acts in the general principles of China's civil law, which only includes legal legal acts. In recent years, with the increase of legal and cultural exchanges with foreign countries in China, many problems have arisen in legal translation, such as spelling and grammar errors, and errors in the translation of legal terms. As a legal translator, you should have a correct attitude, be conscientious and responsible, and translate high-quality translations.

2. Problems in Legal Translation at the Present Stage

2.1. Problems in Judicial Translation

In the translation of criminal proceedings, translators must be proficient in foreign Chinese to help case-handling personnel complete the interrogation of criminal suspects and defendants, or interrogate witnesses, so as to achieve the goal of ascertaining the truth of the case. Nowadays, the number of crimes committed by foreigners in China has increased dramatically, and the demand for translators has also increased.

2.2. Translation Norms Nowadays

China has more and more exchanges with the rest of the world, and the communication is getting closer and closer. However, the quality of the translations we have seen so far is uneven, and there are many translations that do not respect professional cultural knowledge, are irresponsible, and disagree due to cultural differences or differences with the author's opinions. We generally divide them into word-by-word type, word-by-sentence type, careless type, lack of professional knowledge, and debatable type of understanding differences in translation.

2.3. Case Study of Translation

In 1840, the British Crown reached an agreement with the Maori chieftains of New Zealand, whereby the Maori sought refuge from the criminals, sailors, and merchants who roamed the villages, and the British wanted to expand their control over the colonies. The Treaty of Waitangi was drafted and signed by both sides. The English version of the treaty states that "the Maori are to submit absolutely to the Queen of England, relinquishing all interests and sovereignty without reservation." However, according to a translation into Māori by a British missionary, it was not sovereignty that the Māori had to give up, but the right to govern. They thought they could establish a legal system other than the right to retain autonomy, but this was not the case, and the question of the meaning of the treaty has been debated for generations.

3. Analysis of the Reasons for the Existence of the Problem

3.1. Translators are scarce and the translation level of most staff members is uneven

In judicial practice, regular translation companies or scholars and experts who study foreign languages are hired to carry out professional translation work, but these personnel only directly translate the language of the case-handling personnel, have a low grasp of professional terminology, and the translation is quite arbitrary, and even completely different from the expressions of judicial personnel. This kind of translation that has no legal significance has brought great drawbacks to judicial work, and it is even difficult to achieve the goal of ascertaining the facts of the case.
3.2. There are no uniform regulations on the procedures for hiring translators, and translators lack professional knowledge

The relevant judicial interpretations do not stipulate how to hire translators, and the procedures for hiring translators are often not formal—— as long as they are familiar with the sign language that needs to be interpreted, or as long as they are foreign language personnel, they can interpret, and sometimes there are even no formalities and no approval procedures in order to speed up the handling of cases. Or, for the sake of convenience, go directly to the translator from the previous stage. Since the translators in the previous stage already have some understanding of the facts of the case, they only repeat the previous work, which cannot achieve the objective authenticity of the translation.

3.3. Lack of understanding of cultural differences

Lack of a clear understanding of the religious beliefs, history and culture, living Xi and regional cultural differences between the two sides, resulting in mistakes in the case.

4. Problem-solving Strategies

4.1. Judicial Translation System

4.1.1. Establish a Specialized Translation System

The translation work of various organs and departments should have detailed standards and specifications, and be able to work in unison and coordination, which requires corresponding adjustments and regulations on the employment system of translators, so as to provide legal support for accurate translation and provide a legal basis for the translation system. They are better able to assume their obligations and responsibilities, which is more conducive to the efficient and accurate development of criminal litigation translation.

4.1.2. The principle of impartiality should be reflected in the process of legal translation.

The principle of impartiality is a unique principle in legal translation, which also reflects the maintenance of the fairness and justice of the law itself. Unlike other translations, legal translations often touch the interests of multiple parties, so they must be translated objectively and accurately. If a word or sentence is affected by the subjective emotions of the translator, it may change the meaning of the entire original text and bring unnecessary trouble. Therefore, it is necessary to carefully verify some vague sentences in legal translation documents, and not deliberately beautify or depreciate the translation of some clauses in the original text according to your own ideas.

4.2. Translation Norms

4.2.1. Translators work in light of differences

There are great cultural differences between China and the UK, and the source of Western culture represents that the Bible has a great influence on their religious Xi, and each country will have its own unique history, and different historical connotations will emerge, and the differences in living Xi habits and living environments are obvious regional differences between China and the UK. Therefore, translators need to link the two organically, and not look at either side in isolation or in isolation. For example, in a Christian passage "I think, because of my religious faith, that I shall return to Father in an afterlife that is beyond description", the word "afterlife" in the sentence cannot be translated as the afterlife or the afterlife, but should be translated in conjunction with the idea that the Christian soul survives after death. Respect the cultural Xi of other countries, analyze the author's life and writing style for accurate translation.

4.2.2. Combined with legal professionalism

Due to the application of law territorial jurisdiction, personal jurisdiction and protective jurisdiction, when it comes to the application of law, the application of law in private international law has not been fully implemented, and there are many controversies. Taking the Criminal Procedure Law as an example, firstly, in the translation of the Criminal Procedure Law, the translator must be proficient in foreign Chinese. Secondly, when translating the laws of the civil law system and the common law system into Chinese, the understanding of different doctrines will also arise.

(1) Terminology The accuracy of legal translation is not only the literary aspect, but more importantly, the legal aspect. Literary accuracy is the level of translation, which requires training and experience, while legal professionalism requires the translator to understand the meaning of legal words.

(2) Confusing Vocabulary Legal translation, which is a serious and chewy field of the industry. Legal translators should have an accurate knowledge of the laws of both countries. In addition, it is necessary to conduct research on the different cultural differences and historical backgrounds between the two countries, and under the premise of equal legal functions, the translation strategy for ambiguous words should be fuzzy versus ambiguous. On the contrary, the original words with clear meanings should not be swallowed and ambiguous, so as not to cause undue ambiguity. For example, substantially certain should be translated as "roughly certain, substantially certain" rather than "corollary". There are similar ambiguous terms in Chinese law. For example, in the General Principles of the Civil Law of the People's Republic of China, "main source of livelihood" (Article 11), "appropriate civil activities" (Article 12), and "necessary property" (Article 37). Ambiguous words in law and contracts are intended to maintain flexibility in the enforcement or performance of provisions.

5. Conclusion

Judicial English translation bears an important responsibility for publicizing China's judicial process to the outside world, and also plays an important role in publicizing China's concept of governing the country according to law and improving the legal system. However, at the same time, there are also many problems, such as the imperfection of the translation system and system, etc., which need to be solved, so as to further safeguard judicial fairness and establish legal authority. The analysis and application of the translation of unjust, false and wrongly decided cases can not only conduct in-depth research on the field of linguistics, but also demonstrate the progress of the rule of law.

References


