

A comprehensive assessment of the minimization of differences in Chinese and English factors impacting the general positive translation quality and its relation to the language's cultural sensitivity

JIANG CUI¹, DR. LUBNA ALI^{2a}, DR. VELVIZHI^{3b}

¹Phd. Research Scholar in English Lincoln University College Malaysia

^{2,3}Professors in Lincoln University College Malaysia

Contact Details :^alubnaali@lincoln.edu.my, ^bvelvizhi219@lincoln.edu.my

Abstract

Translation is essential to effective intercultural communication because it enables meaning to be communicated across a variety of languages and cultural contexts. People of various countries and speaking different languages are unable to successfully interact with one another, which might have devastating consequences for both parties. The process of translating has an effect on people's day-to-day lives as well as the manner in which people connect with one another around the world. Those who have an interest in this field ought to take note of the

findings of this study. This research not only enlightens those individuals who are not familiar with translation but also captures their interest. This material might be useful for educators as well as businesses that have an interest in enhancing the education and capabilities of professional translators. It is hoped that this campaign would increase awareness about the responsibility of the translator to offer correct translations and the ways in which they could perform this obligation more effectively in the future.

Keyword: Intercultural Communication, Professional Translators

INTRODUCTION

To put it another way, the researcher picked this topic because technical communication and translation are inextricably intertwined. Long-established translation programmes are giving rise to new technical communication programmes in China, although Chinese institutions do not currently provide complete technical communication degrees. There are just a few institutions in China that have recognised the necessity for a technical communication programme and have included it into their computer-aided translation curriculum. University of Twente and PKU work closely in a dual degree programme that combines translation, localization and cultural studies with technological communication. It's all about globalisation. Translation and communication are

inextricably linked, according to Gao, Yu and Jong (2014). Many user menus had to be translated while the Chinese technology sector was in its infancy. China's multinational corporations must now regard technical communication and translation to be one. Numerous multinational corporations such as IBM are actively seeking competent Chinese students to fill technical writing roles in their organisations. Translation and technical communication professionals in the United States have various backgrounds and abilities, according to Minacori & Veisblat (2010). The profession of technical communication and the related university programmes are relatively new in Europe, thus many technical communicators come from a translation-centric background. By shining light on the process of accurate translation, this study will give a problem-solving strategy for contemporary Chinese-to-English translation practice.

LITERATURE REVIEW

As a result of the Chinese way of thinking, people speak in Chinglish. When there are cognitive differences between Chinese and English speakers, a language like Chinglish emerges as a result of the loss of the mother tongue. Chinglish is sometimes caused by a misunderstanding of the culture. Chinglish is caused in part by the grammatical discrepancies between Chinese and English, with the most prevalent error being a mistranslation of the subjects and verbs. It is possible to decrease or even eliminate Chinglish by using a translator who is well-versed in both the source and destination languages' cultures and languages.

The quality of a translation can be improved by determining a language's cultural sensitivity. It is possible that misinterpretations will arise if the cultural background is incorrectly translated. Understanding cultural differences, according to Li (1998) and Sun (2003), might reduce the number of times misunderstandings arise. Translating word-for-word without considering the target culture increases the risk of it being misinterpreted and even insulting. Translators' misunderstanding of Chinese and American cultures is blamed for mistakes in translation. The cultural sensitivity of professional translators might help reduce misunderstandings. They'll know when not to translate an unpleasant term word-for-word, staying true to the original's meaning but also being considerate of the target language's.

There should be a greater knowledge of the domain-specific limits of machine translation (MT) and less dependence on it. When MT is used in conjunction with other domain-specific technologies, such as machine translation (MT), it can provide an intelligible meaning even when the grammar is garbled. This finding was made by Aiken et al. When translating untranslatable terms, MT has a translatability gap. The literature (Chapter 2.1.4) warns against relying too much on MT because of the negative consequences. Cultural background such as colloquial phrases is difficult for MT systems to translate. Because of these issues, it's a good idea to use experienced human translators to review and amend MT results once they've been generated.

To deliver high-quality translation, you must first become a professional translator. Both Sofer (2012) and Gouadec (2007) argue that in order to be a successful translation, one needs to be well-versed in the subject matter, have a diverse set of talents, and be ethical in their work. According to Biel (2011), a translator must follow a five-stage process that includes translation, checking, rewriting, reviewing, proofreading, and final verification in order to create an accurate and high-quality translation. Good translators are those who have mastered their subject matter and adhere to strict professional ethics. By giving these expert translators adequate training, the educational system for educating future translators in China may be greatly enhanced.

Statement of the Problem

Mistranslation from Chinese to English is an issue that has an impact on cross-cultural relations. This research focuses on a few specific translation quality issues that have been discovered through preliminary investigation and a review of the existing literature. It's important to note that there are several issues with machine translation (MT) today, including Chinglish, cultural sensitivity issues with the target language, and an overreliance on MT without human editing.

Objective of the Study

- To raise awareness about the translator's duty to deliver high-quality translation services

Research Questions

- Is it possible to create a typology or pattern for the most prevalent Chinese to English translation errors?

Research Methodology

The interviews and surveys were conducted between December 10, 2015 and December 28, 2015. The subjects were approached in a culturally appropriate manner by interviewing and surveying the participants face-to-face and by asking questions appropriate to Chinese culture. Chinese people tend to be more responsive to face-to-face interactions. It was important to be respectful to the participants and communicate with them in Mandarin Chinese in order to ensure that they understood the purpose of this research.

The 11 interview and 19 survey questions for this study were grouped into the following four categories:

1. Problems in translation investigation.
2. Translation quality assessment.
3. MT tools.
4. The translation profession.

Pre-tests were conducted in order to ensure that all the interviews and survey questions were comprehensible. Participants were asked to answer truthfully and accurately to the interview and

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survey questions, based on their personal experience and knowledge, and respond honestly and to the best of their abilities.

RESEARCH DESIGN

For this study, researchers included qualitative as well as quantitative methods. Twenty semi-structured interviews with professional translators and university professors from Tsinghua University, China University of Mining and Technology, Sun Yat-sen University, Zhaoqing University and Guangdong College of Business and Technology were conducted as part of the qualitative approach. Over 300 students from Shanghai International Studies University, Southern Medical University, Zhaoqing University, and Guangdong College of Business and Technology were polled as part of the quantitative approach to data collection. Participants in the interviews and surveys were hand-picked. As a result of the researcher's extensive academic and administrative relationships at the chosen schools, interviews and surveys were performed there. The professors there have also previously shown an interest in this kind of research. Having been born and raised in the research region, and earning her undergraduate degree there, the researcher is well-versed in China's present socioeconomic cultural and political situations.

DATA ANALYSIS

People were intentionally recruited rather than randomly picked from the population, hence this study is considered a quasi-experiment. The researchers' capacity to choose at-will participants from a bigger pool of native Chinese speakers was further constrained by the requirement that they demonstrate at least a predetermined level of English language competency.

The examiner merely counted the number of mistakes made by each person and computer in the sample, having already provided the right answers to the Chinese-to-English language competency structure test. The amount of errors made in each sentence was tallied up for the Chinese-to-English phrase and sentence translation test.

Using Analysis of Variance, we compared the performance of humans and machines in translating Chinese phrases and sentences into English (ANOVA). For the purpose of this study, we used two-sample t-tests to assess the central research question of whether or not there are statistically significant differences in translation error between the general human and machine groups, and also to test for statistically significant differences between subsets of translators. The correlation between the amount of translation errors and demographic factors such age, education level, and social group was investigated using generalized linear regression analysis, and the gender gap in translation errors was calculated after adjusting for these factors.

CONCLUSION

This thesis aims to discover answers to the problems that arise throughout the process of translating from Chinese to English. For the purpose of putting the hypotheses and research questions to the test, both qualitative and quantitative research approaches will be utilized. Interviews with a semi-

structured format and questionnaires are going to be utilized in order to figure out what the problems are and how they could be fixed.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Lack of library access to Chinese databases and published papers may hinder the researcher's capacity to examine Chinese academic literature, which is a severe constraint. If the researcher can't access publications such as Xiaojun Heng's *Functional Equivalence in English Translation of Chinese Idioms: A Socio-Semiotic Approach*, they may be unable to do their research. Graduate students at major private American institutions aren't exempt from this problem, either. The researcher doesn't know if it's unique to graduate students at a tiny public university in Montana. The difficulty of access will hopefully be solved in the future, allowing future scholars who wish to continue this work to do so with ease.

It's important for the researcher to point out that the study's primary goal will be to better understand and maybe solve difficulties associated with translating from Chinese into English. According to the researchers, these aren't the only issues and solutions to consider while translating from Chinese to English. Because the issues and solutions in English to Chinese translation differ from those in Chinese to English translation, this research did not cover it.

Other language pairs may not have the same issues or answers as English-to-Spanish translation. Unfortunately, compared to China and Europe, translation studies do not receive as much attention in technical communication schools in the United States. The researcher's thesis chair has an in-depth grasp of the issue and generously supported and gave helpful insights for this research, thus access to translation specialists at Montana Tech, which does not have a translation programme was restricted.

Because the respondents are academics with demanding academic schedules, the researcher had just three weeks in China to complete the research and there may not be any opportunity for follow-up interviews. There will be a wide range of people interviewed, but there will also be biases in the sample.

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A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE MINIMIZATION OF DIFFERENCES IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH FACTORS IMPACTING THE GENERAL POSITIVE TRANSLATION QUALITY AND ITS RELATION TO THE LANGUAGE'S CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

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