Utilization of Some Sentences with Special Verbal Predicates in the Translation of English into Chinese

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Abstract—This paper discusses the ways English is translated into Chinese by applying some sentences with special verbal predicates peculiar to Chinese language. In this paper the methods involves sentences with verbal constructions in series, and pivotal sentences. This paper introduces some knowledge of Chinese grammar briefly and then mentions what English sentence patterns or structures can be translated into Chinese by using the knowledge.

Keywords—English-Chinese translation; verbal constructions in series; pivotal sentences

I. INTRODUCTION

There are a great number of papers and articles on English-Chinese translation which have dealt with the methods and skills with which English is translated into Chinese. This paper discusses the translation of English into Chinese from a different point of view than others. English can be put into Chinese by applying some sentences with special verbal predicates peculiar to Chinese grammar. In English-Chinese translation, it must be avoided to translate English into European-style Chinese, especially Chinese with European structures. In order to translate English into genuine Chinese, this paper argues that translators had better study Chinese grammar and master as many sentences with special verbal predicates peculiar to Chinese as possible besides mastering English and Chinese languages and being skillful at the necessary English-Chinese translation skills so that they can translate English into excellent Chinese, and make the translation faithfully meaningful and fluent. The paper doesn’t repeat all kinds of translation skills and try to apply sentences with special verbal predicates peculiar to Chinese to English-Chinese translation. All of the examples in this article are collected by the authors when composing Medical English Learning Manual (published by People's Military Medical Press).

II. SENTENCES WITH VERBAL CONSTRUCTIONS IN SERIES

A sentence with verbal constructions in series is a kind of special sentence patterns in which one subject has two or more than two predicates which are closely connected to one another logically. The predicates do not modify each other, being independent of each other. However among several predicates are such logical relations as relations of purposes, methods, cause and effect, and succession. The following sorts of sentences can be translated into Sentences with verbal constructions in series.

A. English sentences with adverbials of purpose

The sentences can be translated into sentences with verbal constructions in series in Chinese, in which the second verb indicates the purpose of the first one so the Chinese sentence is almost the same in structure and semantics as the English one in which the infinitive acts as adverbials of purpose. For example:

Oxytocin may be used to induce labour. 催产素可用于引产。The predicate “may be used” and the infinitive “to induce labour” are translated into the first and the second verbs in Chinese forming a sentence with verbal constructions in series.

For patients and their families alike, it is critical to understand the basics in order to be able to better control the disease.对患者及其家人同等重要的是了解疾病的基本知识更好控制疾病。

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Today, many artificial medical devices, including artificial joints (e.g., hips and knees), pacemakers, heart valves, and eye lenses are surgically implanted to treat a various conditions.今天,许多人造医用装置通过手术植入体内治疗各种疾病,这些装置包括人工关节(如髋关节和膝关节)、心脏起搏器、心脏瓣膜和晶状体。

Generally speaking, Infinitive phrases acting as adverbials of purpose are usually translated into the second verb in Chinese.

B. English sentences with adverbials of manner

The sentences can be translated into sentences with verbal constructions in series. Note the order of the words in Chinese sentence. The adverbial of manner is translated into
the first action, the predicate into the second action. For example:

Infectious mononucleosis can be transmitted by kissing. The new dental appliance reduces the size of your oral cavity and forces you to take smaller mouthfuls. The adverbial adjunct usually indicates the cause of the predictive verb. For example:

The new dental appliance reduces the size of your oral cavity and forces you to take smaller mouthfuls. You should have been exposed to severe acute respiratory syndrome and become ill with any symptoms. The senses of taste and smell interact closely, helping you appreciate food.

C. English sentences with accompanying adverbial

The sentences can be translated into sentences with verbal constructions in series, the accompanying adverbial translated into the second predicate. For example:

You may escape motion sickness by planning ahead. 病会降缓，但有时仍会降。

D. Compound predicates

As compound predicates show that actions take place successively, compound predicates can be translated into sentences with verbal constructions in series, and the order of the actions remains unchanged. For example:

Don’t let blood pressure creep up during the holidays. The new dental appliance reduces the size of your oral cavity and forces you to take smaller mouthfuls.

III. PIVOTAL SENTENCES

A pivotal sentence has two predicates, the first of which has an object that serves as the subject for the second predicate. This object is called the pivot. The basic form of the pivotal sentence is as follows: Subject + predicate 1 (verb) + pivot + predicate 2. The first predicate in pivotal sentences usually expresses a request, a command, etc. Commonly used verbs include 让、让、请、使、禁止等. The following kinds of sentences can be translated into pivotal sentences.

A. The sentence with the verb followed by a noun or pronoun and by (not) to and infinitive

In the sentence the infinitive is short for in order to, or object complement. For example:

The new dental appliance reduces the size of your oral cavity and forces you to take smaller mouthfuls. You have been exposed to severe acute respiratory syndrome and become ill with any symptoms.

B. The sentence with the verb expressing approval or blame etc. (+adverbial adjunct)

The sentence can be translated into a pivotal sentence. The adverbial adjunct usually indicates the cause of the predictive verb. For example:

On behalf of everyone here in the operating room, I thank you for joining us. The senses of taste and smell interact closely, helping you appreciate food.

We praise the brave decision of the family to donate their baby’s organs. The senses of taste and smell interact closely, helping you appreciate food.
C. The sentence with the verb of perception followed by a noun or pronoun and by infinitive.

The sentence is the same as the pivotal sentence in structure and semantics. Thus it is always put into a pivotal sentence.

I heard the doctor say, 'I'm sorry; the test results show that you have cancer.'

Press lightly on your abdomen and you'll feel the baby kick back.

Many see their acne go away by the time they reach their 30s.

Get moving and eat your veggies every day --- to prevent cancer, stroke, and other diseases while you watch the pounds melt away.

Have you noticed his symptoms get worse? You are you?

D. The sentence with indefinite pronoun as subject.

When indefinite pronouns function as subject, they are often translated into 有人,没人, which is a verb-object structure, and the predicate into predicate 2 in Chinese forming a pivotal sentence. For example:

Nobody is completely sure how much water the human body needs.

Some individuals prefer to go to the gym while others are perfectly content to work out at home on their own equipment.

No one can predict how far a radioactive iodine cloud might spread.没有人能预测放射性碘云可能扩散多远。

Some argue that reproductive cloning could help sterile couples fulfill their dream of parenthood.有些人认为生殖克隆可以帮助不育夫妇实现为人父母的梦想。

E. The sentence with the transitive verb followed by adverbial adjunct expressing purpose and result etc.

In the sentence the object of the sentence is translated into the pivot, and the adverbial adjunct expressing purpose and result etc into the predicate 2.

Blood returning from your feet and legs has to flow upwards, so veins have valves in them to stop the blood from flowing backwards.从脚和腿部回流的血液向上流动，所以静脉内有瓣膜阻止血液倒流。In this sentence there are two pivotal sentences, one being “有瓣膜阻止”, another being “阻止血液倒流”.

IV. SUMMARY

This paper describes how to translate English into Chinese in detail by using sentences with verbal constructions in series and pivotal sentences. Application of some sentences with special verbal predicates peculiar to Chinese language in the translation of English into Chinese adds more methods and skills to the English-Chinese translation and enriches the theory on English-Chinese translation. However, the methods discussed in the paper can be successfully applied on the condition that the translators must have a good master of Chinese language and Chinese grammar.

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