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Practice Analysis on the Teaching Theory and Skills of English Translation

Jingyang Wu*

Xi'an International Studies University, Xi'an, Shaanxi, 710128, China

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ABSTRACT

As a universal language, English makes a better communication between China and the developed countries; English language teaching has become increasingly important in more and more Chinese Schools. At the beginning, when Chinese students start to learn a second language, they need to translate the second language such as English into Chinese in the first hand, and this procedure will help them to understand and learn English better. For English language translation teachers, they need to research and create the suitable, effective method of learning English translation for most students constantly in order to improve the English translation learning efficiency of the Chinese students. The local culture of China is quite different from the culture of other English speaking countries. When our Chinese students study English language translation, at the same time, they need to learn the different culture in different countries and learn how to accept and face up the cultural background difference between our country and the other English speaking countries. In the meantime, during the time of teaching English translation, the English translation subject teachers need to guide the students to learn and understand the difference in practice, and help them to establish a comprehensive and correct idea of learning English translation through teaching correct and different translation skills.

1. Introduction

China has a very fast development in the past several years, especially in economics, which reflects on the closer economic communication between other countries. In September and October 2013, President Xi Jinping bring the Cooperation Initiative prospectively of building the “the New Silk Road Economic Belt” and “the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road”. It will fully rely on the existing dual multilateral mechanisms between China and the relevant countries, with the help of existing and effective regional cooperation platforms. “One belt,

one road” aims to borrow the historical symbols of the ancient Silk Road. It not only holds high the banner of peaceful development and develops the economic partnership with the countries along the border, but also jointly creates a community of interests, destinies and responsibilities with political mutual trust, economic integration and cultural inclusion. In the process of economic exchanges, it will inevitably involve language communication. When students are learning English translation, they need to understand the customs and habits and cultural tradition of other countries in

**Corresponding Author:*

Jingyang Wu,

*Xi'an International Studies University, South Wenyuan Road, Guodu Education and
Sci-Tech Industrial Development Zone, Xi'an, Shaanxi, 710128, China;*

E-mail: wjy88525@163.com.

the first hand, able to understand cultural differences between countries at the same time and combine the literal meaning of words in the sentence and different cultural background to translate. Only in this way, the students can make English translation be closer to the meaning of the sentence itself.^[1] This will need English translation course teachers teach students different kinds of translation skills and spread the different cultural background of different countries. At present, more and more schools begin to attach importance to the development and teaching of English courses. They constantly train teachers because it is important for teachers to pass on more comprehensive English knowledge to their students, and help students learn English knowledge more conveniently and directly. When students learn the relevant knowledge of English, English translation is one of the important parts in the progress. If the teachers want to improve their students' English translation test scores and the learning efficiency of students, they need to teach students more translation skills in practice that will make students to learn in an easier way and the learning effect is more significant at the same time.

2. The Current Situation of English Translation Course

Nowadays, many schools do not attach enough importance to English translation, even an attitude of indifference. Teachers also generally consider in learning English, which is enough to be able to hear, read and write accurately. In fact, English translation is the key to learning English. But learning English translation involves a lot of other relative knowledge. For example, for Chinese-English and English-Chinese translation, British and American literature is one of the most important parts. Different literature and culture will help students to combine different cultural background in order to translate a sentence in a different and deep way. Such as in the English translation of British proverbs and American proverbs, it also helps students understand English proverbs better by learning British and American culture. In universities, the school did not offer English translation courses for the students who are not English Majors, just require them the basic knowledge and skills in English listening, speaking, reading and writing,^[2] it will not require non-English majors students to learn the detailed translation theories and techniques. In addition, many schools lack learning materials for English translation. Even if students want to learn English

translation, there is no way and materials to learn. Moreover, in the process of English translation teaching, teachers usually teach English translation knowledge according to the inherent textbooks, which is relatively dull as ditch water. As time goes by, students will feel bored when they learn and then the enthusiasm for learning will be dropped which will lead to the limitation progress of the student's English translation level. In fact, the level of English translation learning will also reflect students' knowledge of learning English and the teaching level of English Translation teachers. English grammar and language logic are quite different from those in Chinese. If the students want to learn the relevant knowledge of English translation better, they require the constant practice and constant learning in order to improving logical thinking ability.

3. Theoretical Practice of English Translation Teaching

3.1 Teaching Theory of English Translation

Translation, as the name suggests, is the process of changing something that is written or spoken into another language according to its original meaning. It sounds like a very simple thing. In fact, it is not easy to translate original language "faithfulness, expressiveness and taste" into the target language. In universities, English majors department will offer some professional translation courses for the students, such as translation, interpretation, simultaneous interpretation, etc. Some professional foreign languages universities also set up the special advanced Translation Institute or advanced translation major. It is very good for students who aspire to study translation theory and practice. However, because of many schools do not attach much importance to English translation course, therefore, there is no relatively complete teaching theory as the basis for the course. Many people think that teaching in class needs an independent and unified textbook in the first hand, however at present, only English major students have the unified textbooks for English translation course. But the textbooks for English translation major students need highly professional skills and knowledge, which don't suitable for non-English translation major students. However, if the non-English translation major students want to learn and grasp the knowledge of English translation course better, they need less professional and easier textbooks for English translation. Although the knowledge and content in the textbooks for non-English major students

are less professional and easier than the ones for English translation major students, the knowledge and content need to be “small but excellent” and will attract more and more non-English translation major students to learn. Let us make an example, if they put more interesting Western fables, or many Myths and legends, and more stories of local customs and culture or more attractive “seen and hear” of tourists from all over the world and so on,^[3] which definitely can attract more students to read and learn. It also enables students to skillfully apply translation skills in more and different practical situations and convey exactly what they want to convey. At the same time, nowadays, more and more enterprises pay much attention on the English level when they recruit talents; some industries will be stricter on this part because the frequency of communication use on English becomes more and more in daily working. Although there are some industries that do not demand much higher English level on the talents when they apply for the job, however it is hard to avoid by using English to communicate with colleagues or clients, or write emails'do presentation'make working material translation etc. in the work afterwards. So, the using ability of English makes a very important role in our daily work and life. When students are learning English translation skills, in the first hand, they need to translate the sentences in a simple and fluent way. There are much difference in the translation method between English translation and ancient Chinese language translation. English translation does not need to express the meaning of a sentence in a complete way, but a general meaning of the whole sentence. What's more, when professional English teacher teaches English translation course, they don't need to overly strictly require students translate word by word, but require the content and structure of English translation to be simplify.^[4] In addition, when students are learning English translation,it is more important to gain the ability of English interpersonal communication and actual practice than that in English written skills. Because of the current development of our time is that the economic and culture exchanges between China and other countries are growing. We need to learn comprehensive English knowledge better and different cultural and economic development background of different countries in the world instead of just learning English translation course and simplex English translation skills better only in order to make a fluent communication. Last but not least, the most important thing is to learn how to use English to communicate properly and fluently in practice, talk more and go out to find more practice opportunity. Only

in this way, we can find what problems we have in the daily use. This is the core idea of why we learn English translation.

3.2 The Penetration of English Translation Teaching Theory

Because of the educational system in our country and the current development of our times, we need to consider much more possible problems in the process of English teaching. Although it is important to learn English translation skills,but we can not just focus on learning English translation course only and we can not just use English to communicate in class, teachers need to give consideration to different courses and content. Teachers need to arrange English translation study progress properly according to the practical situation when they are designing the English course-teaching plan. However, teachers can share the English translation teaching theory to every student and let them to know the importance of learning English translation and the basic information of what they will learn in the future. This move aims to let the students grasp the essence of English translation in a better and deep way.^[5] There are many ways to learn how to translate, and students can find more common translation methods in school textbooks. There are two different English translation methods in general, one is Literal Translation, which means translation that follows the original words exactly; the other one is Free Translation, which means translation that is not exact but gives the general meaning in a more perfect way. Literal translation and free translation are both very important when students learning English translation, some sentences can be translated by literal translation method, but some need to be used by free translation because some sentences are not pleasing and they have language barrier by using literal translation. Teachers themselves also need the proficiency in using the two translation methods of literal translation and free translation during the teaching process in class and daily life, so that the students can be imperceptibly influenced by what the teachers see and hear in order to have a better understanding and learning on English translation. In the meantime, teachers can encourage the students to use English in practice, such as talking and communicating with the International students or use them in daily life like in dormitory. Only by using English in practice, we can know what grammar problems or oral mistakes we have in learning this subject and what level we have achieved in study. The core of learning English translation is learning the

practicality and skill of English translation. That is the most important thing.

4. The Practical Discussion on Teaching Skills of English Translation

4.1 Analysis on Division Method and Combination Method Translation

Division is a translation process or a result of dividing a sentence into separate parts and then translate the different parts respectively, on the contrary, combination is a kind of translation method that use two or more short sentences join or mix together to form a single long sentence then translation the long sentence at last. How to use these two methods and when to use the two methods will depend on different situations. English sentence expression is supported by multiple small sentence structures, when students translate long sentences in English, they need to understand the sentence structure in the first place and then translate by splitting several long sentences into short sentences in order to make the expression more concise. And when students meet a few short sentences, they can find out the structure relationship between a few sentences firstly, and then translate these sentences in a reasonable and proper order. When students start to learn the two methods at the beginning, they can learn to memorize by a simple way, which is translate the short sentence by using combination and translate the long sentences by using division method, which can make the translation becomes easier by changing the sentence structure, and make the final sentence meaning clearer.^[6] During the learning process, teachers need to put more examples for the students, in order to let them use the two methods for practice again and again. Only by doing more translation exercise everyday, the students can grasp and learn English translation method and skills in a better and deep way.

4.2 Analysis on Amplification Method and Omission Method

Amplification and Omission are two common translation methods in our daily translation life. The most important thing is to make the sentences fluent by translation when conducting English translation, there is much difference between Chinese and English sentence structure and language grammar. At the same time, the corresponding words in English words are relatively concise than in Chinese, the final number of words in English is much less than that in Chinese. So

the students need the proficiency in using English translation skills when they doing translation exercises and in daily life communication. The different sentence structures need different English translation methods to express, for example, the English phrase “the rest of life” can be translated into “余生 (Yu Sheng)” instead of “剩下的生命 (Sheng Xia De Sheng Ming)” in Chinese, this is a great translation. If we translated this as “remaining life (剩余的生命)”, it will be very wordy and without any aesthetic feeling. What’s more, when we do translation, we need to properly use the better words to express the accurate meaning of the sentence, as well as express the proper meaning in communicating with other people in our daily life, which will make a more pleasing expression and a fluent communication.

5. Conclusion

According to the above content, we can fully understand that the importance of learning English translation. Learning and grasping English translation skills is important for the students learning English knowledge and improving English level.^[7] So for English Teachers, when English teachers teaching English course in class, they need to use the theoretical method properly and put the better teaching plan in to practical use. In the mean time, teachers should teach the students English translation skills again and again, in order to let the student gain the ability of practical use and let the students grasp the quintessence of English translation and learn the knowledge of English course in a better way. What’s more, for school part, the school needs to take responsibility of adding the English translation course for the non-English major students and provide different kinds of English translation books for students to read in order to improve the English study efficiency of the non-English major students.^[8] Teachers also need to do more research on new and easy-acceptable English translation skills for the students and need to do their best to let the students use English and understand English expertly in any different situation, so that the teaching level has also been greatly improved. For English translation learners, students need to use English translation skills that learned in class into practice, and take part in various translation activities, communicate with target language users more. And then find a more understandable and better translation expression way. Translation is a basic learning skill in English learning. It is ubiquitous in English use and daily life. Finally, we need to apply translation skills to life, which is the ultimate goal of English language learning.

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