COMMON PROBLEMS OF FRESH TRANSLATORS

Translation actually is kind of hard nut to crack, even for those who have a good command in languages. Being a good translator is a long journery, with twisted lanes and steep climbs. As the saying goes, the starting is the hardest. As a fresh translator myself, I here want to point out some problems which are commonly seen.

The first would be Word to Word translation. It may be called the quick in localization, which requires to minimize the translation traces. But usually the fresh translators feel hard to make some sentences look native to native people. Most of the they have no choice but reduce to Word to Word translation.

Examples:

A. Supervisor Bill Postmus tried to make the best of it all in his invocation: “Thank you for taking us out of the difficult times that we’ve had in the past, Lord.”

version 1: □□□□□□·□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□“□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□”

version 2: □□□□□□□□□·□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□“□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□”

Analysis: In this sentence, the phrase “make the best of ” certainly can be translated into “□□□□” in the version 1. Yet problem rises. It would be difficult for the Chinese to accept this sentence. Then we try to polish it and change the translation into “□□”. Isn’t it much better now? All the

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same, the “take us out of ” needs to be localize into “[illegible]”.

B. Just as good character comes from the bottom up , so does a good society. This is why the idea, and not the actual policies, of clamping down on anti-social behaviour builds on a genuine insight .

version 1: [illegible]

version 2: [illegible]

The second problem is always at a loss facing long sentences. The only way to overcome it is to fall in love with it. Get to know it, understand it, finally learn the beauty of it.

To identify the subject, predicate, object and other segments; to learn some approaches ([illegible]) which often are applied in translating long sentences. These would help you a lot.

Examples:

A. Applied science, on the other hand, is directly concerned with the application of the working laws of pure science to the practical affairs of life, and to increasing man’s control over his environment, thus leading to the development of techniques, processes and machines.

[illegible]

B. In reality, the lines of division between sciences are becoming blurred, and science again approaching the ‘Unity’ that it had two centuries ago—although the accumulated knowledge is enormously greater now,

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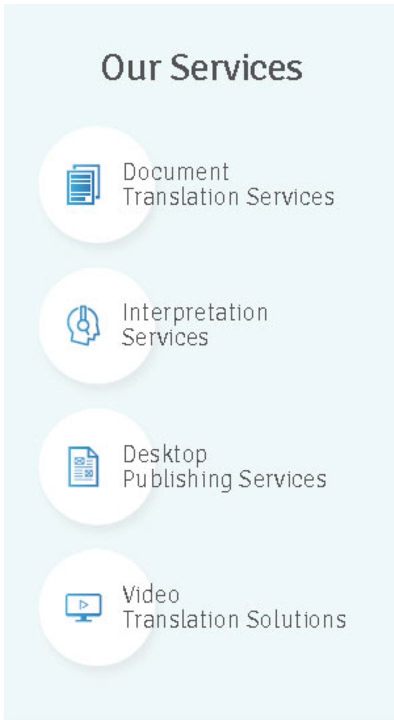
and no one person can hope to comprehend more than a fraction of it.