



LITERAL TRANSLATION AND LIBERAL TRANSLATION

Which one is better? This issue has always been existed since a long time in the translation field. Well, different people express various opinions to this problem and these two translation methods have their own characteristics. We should treat the translation according to the context of situation and the content of text.

Literal translation requires the translator express the original text's meaning and consistent with the text. While the liberal translation means we should let the target language as much localized as possible, more specialized in style of writing- copywriting.

Let us see some examples of literal translation.

1. A wait-and-see attitude □□□□□□

Crack the case □□

Thirst to learn □□□□

A gentleman's agreement □□□□

Man and Nature □□□□ □□□□□□

Music Bridge □□□ □□□□□□□

Women Are Not the Moon □□□□□□□□□□□□

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2 I read this letter with both surprise and excitement, surprise because he is still around, excitement because he didn't ever forget me.

我既惊喜又兴奋读了这封信，惊喜是因为他还在，兴奋是因为他从未忘记过我。

3 As the weather was fine, we decided to climb the mountain.

因为天气很好，我们决定去爬山。

4 The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

布丁好不好吃是要等吃了才知道。

Above translations have expressed the original meaning by using literal translation and get the good effect. While for the following sentences, if we still use literal translation, it will bring out some severe mistakes. The sentences are:

- 1) Last night I heard him driving his pigs to market
- 2) It seems to me what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

If we follow the literal translation, it will be “他昨晚把他的猪开往市场” and “鹅有酱，鸭也有酱” When you see these translations, you will be surprised at the expression and wonder why such translation could be occurred. Under this circumstance, we should take the liberal translation. So the correct ones are “他昨晚开着车” and “鹅有酱，鸭也有酱”

More examples:

1. And the shell burst into a million new copies.

(Literal)—壳爆裂成百万新副本

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(Literal)—□□□□□□□□□□

2 What is done by night appears by day.

(Literal)—□□□□□□□□□□

(Literal)—□□□□□□□□□□

3. He was seen to walk a Virginia fence in the street last night.

(Literal)—□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

(Literal)—□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

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