



TRANSLATION PRINCIPLE - ACCURACY



Accuracy is one of the most important principles in translation, especially when translating scientific articles. How can we understand the article correctly? Besides master the source language thoroughly, it's also important to understand the background and knowledge of the article.

Here are some examples of mistranslation caused by misunderstanding the source language:

Misunderstanding Words:

1) What can I do if my child has wind?

Original translation: 消化不良

Revise translation: 消化不良

Comment: "Wind" in medicine can mean "flatulence". If we are not sure about the meaning, we should write a query to ask the author.

2) Overgranulation

Original translation: 疝

Revised translation: 疝

Comment: Over granulation means an over growth of skin around the stoma site that can become infected. The word was misspelled in the

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source article. If we do not understand, we should always ask the client.

1. Misunderstanding Phrases:

Up to 22 lbs

Original translation: 最多 22 磅

Revised translation: 最多 22 磅

Comment: “up to XX” means as high as XX, but not higher than XX.

2. Misunderstanding the important point of the sentence

Will the supplier be provided requirements, specifications, or statements of work for this purchase that will affect design, development and production?

Original translation: 供应商是否会提供设计、开发和生产所需的要求、规格或工作声明？

Revised translation: 供应商是否会提供设计、开发和生产所需的要求、规格或工作声明？

Comment: It seems the original translation is ok, but let’s look at this example: Will you buy food that would make you fat? Here the point is not whether you buy food or not, but whether the food you buy fatty. It works the same way in that sentence. The sentence emphasizes whether the requirements, specifications, or statements of work provided to the supplier affect the design, development and production.

It is translator’s responsibility to convey the meaning of the article to be translated into the target language as faithful as possible. Sometimes the article has some grammar problems. If we can tell what it means, we still have to try our best to translate it to the closest meaning as it tended to

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say.

Such as: The power supply cable can be feed out any side of the docking station at the bottom.

It's easy to deduce that the "feed" should be "fed" here, it should not be the excuse that we do not understand just because the original sentence is grammatically incorrect.

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