

英汉被动句对比与翻译

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摘 要: 英语和汉语是两种非常不同的语言, 分别属于印欧语系和汉藏语系。语言家族的差异导致了它们在语言、词汇、语法、结构和表达方式上的明显差异。被动语态是一种存在于两种语言中的语言现象。从英汉比较的角度来看, 被动语态比汉语使用更广泛, 数量更多。被动语态在英语中的广泛使用是英语和汉语的主要特点。由于两种语言的思维方式和表达习惯的差异, 英语被动句的使用频率远高于汉语。只有理解两种语言中被动语态的异同, 掌握规则, 才能根据具体情况对翻译中的被动句子进行适当的处理和转换。

关键词: 被动句、中英比较、翻译

English-Chinese Passive Sentences Comparison and Translation

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1. Background

The active and passive ways of thinking express the same fact, although they are two different perspectives from which human beings understand the objective world. The difference in meaning lies in the fact that the active voice indicates that the subject is the performer of the action of the predicate verb, emphasizing the action; the passive voice indicates that the subject is the bearer of the action of the predicate verb, emphasizing the state presented after the action is completed. Chinese also has both active and passive voice, but it is not reflected in the same way as English. The transition between the two languages inevitably involves a structural shift in morphology. The appropriateness of the structural transformation will directly affect the translation quality of the translation, and it also reflects our understanding of the difference between Chinese and Western modes of thinking.

2. Introduction of Passive Sentences

2.1 English

English is a hypotactic language and its passive sentences are widely used. They are especially common in science and technology, newspapers and official articles. In terms of the types of passive sentences in English, they can be divided into structural passive sentences and meaning passive sentences. Structured passive sentences in English are passive sentences expressed by the passive voice of verbs in structural form. For example, they are composed of "be+past participle" or "get/become+past participle", which is a fixed and explicit sentence structure. Meaningful passive sentences are sentences that do not use the passive voice structure of the verb, but still contain the passive meaning.

2.2 Chinese

Chinese is a paratactic language, basically without morphological changes, and the verb itself basically does not have passive morphology. Therefore, the expression of passive meaning in Chinese lacks formal signs and is an implicit sentence structure, which relies on vocabulary to make the meaning clear. In ancient China, the word "bei" originally meant only the actual meaning of "quilt". But with the passage of time, the word "bei" is now used as a grammatical function in Chinese. The word "bei" is now used as a grammatical function in Chinese, indicating the meaning of passive. Most scholars consider "bei" to be the most common expression of passive, and many grammatical studies do not

distinguish between "bei" and passive sentences, defining "bei" as a form of passive sentence. When "bei" is a preposition, it is used in passive sentences to introduce the agent of the action. The preceding subject is the recipient of the action. The verb is often followed by a word that indicates completion or result, or the verb itself contains such an element.

3. Differences and Similarities Between English and Chinese Passive Sentences

3.1 Similarities

Both English and Chinese languages have undergone a long-term development period, and the two languages have similarities due to the similarity of human thinking ability, which are mainly manifested in the following aspects:

Firstly, the predicate verbs used in English and Chinese passive sentences are mostly transitive verbs that express action behavior.

Secondly, the information structure of the sentences is similar. The subject of the passive sentence, the information conveyed by the recipient, can not be newer than the information conveyed by the agent. The subject is used to convey the old information, while the object of by or the recipient in Chinese is used to convey the new information.

Thirdly, the pragmatic functions are similar.

3.2 Differences

Although there are similarities between English and Chinese passive sentences, they belong to two different languages after all, and the differences between them are obvious, mainly in the following three aspects.

First, the predicate verb in English passive sentences is in the passive voice, while Chinese has no passive voice. Jiang Jiansong, member of the Translators Association of China and standing Director of the Foreign Classics Translation Committee, points out that both English and Chinese languages have passive sentences, but the same grammatical term represents different contents in different languages. In the morphologically rich languages, there are active and passive verbs. In English, a sentence in which the predicate contains the structure of the auxiliary verb "be (get) + past participle" is called a passive sentence, and "be (get) + past participle" is a symbol for the passive voice in English. Chinese is a morphologically weak language, and the verbs are lack of morphological structure, which does not have the

means to express morphology in a curved form. In predicate verb sentences, if the subject is the agent of an action or behavior, the sentence is an active sentence. Otherwise, it is a passive sentence. In addition, Chinese passive sentences are sentences in which the word "bei" is introduced to the agent to express the passive meaning. The application of the passive clause is very narrow, accounting for only a small part of the passive sentences in Chinese, and the passive relationship can be expressed in other ways; whereas most of the transitive verbs in English can use "be+past participle" as the symbol of passive voice.

Second, English mainly uses the passive voice to express the concept of passivity, supplemented by lexical ways. Chinese has a much richer and more flexible way of expressing passive relations.

Third, in terms of the breadth of use of passive sentences, English and Chinese have their own advantages in the use of expressions of passive meanings. The structural passive of English is used widely and more often than that of Chinese; while the range and frequency of the use of meaning passive sentences in Chinese exceeds that of English. This is consistent with the essential difference between English and Chinese language expressions in terms of form and meaning.

4. Translation Methods of English Passive Sentences

4.1 English Passive Sentences to Chinese Passive Sentences

English passive sentences, especially when there is an agent in the sentence, can usually be translated into Chinese passive sentences. Chinese passive sentences use the prepositions "被", "叫", "让", "由", "给" to introduce the agent. Sometimes the word "给" can be added in front of the Chinese verb.

4.2 English Passive Sentences to Chinese Passive Sentences Expressed by Lexical Means

When translating English passive sentences into Chinese ones, if the word "bei" is used too frequently, or the narrative angle is not smooth, it can be translated as "被(受), 挨, 得到, 获得, 遇到, 得以, 加以, 予以, 使, 受, 有待, 为...所..., 被...所..." and so on, which can be followed by a transitive verb, and the subject of the sentence is the subject of this transitive verb that is subjected to and shows its passive meaning.

4.3 English Passive Sentences to Chinese Meaning Passive Sentences

In modern Chinese, some sentences are active in grammatical form, but passive in logical sense. Such meaning passive sentences are more widely used in Chinese than in English, so English passive sentences are translated into Chinese meaning passive sentences.

4.4 English Passive Sentences to Chinese Judgment Sentences

Judgment sentence is an intensive sentence type in Chinese. It can be used in all passive sentences that focus on the process, nature and state of things. This kind of judgment sentence, which places the verb between "is" and "of", is also applicable to passive sentences translated into the gerund.

Generally speaking, English passive sentences that can be translated as judgment sentences do not emphasize the action that expresses the passive meaning, but describe what properties things have or what range they belong to in the passive form.

4.5 Passive sentences with "It" as Formal Subject

Some passive sentences with it as the formal subject have their own

fixed expressions when translated into Chinese, and usually have to be changed to the active form.

5. Translation Methods of Chinese Passive Sentences

5.1 Chinese Passive Sentences with Obvious Passive Symbols to English Passive Sentences

The translation of Chinese passive sentences into English passive sentences, especially those with obvious passive symbols, is the primary translation method to be considered in English to Chinese translation.

5.2 Chinese Passive Sentences without Passive Symbols to English Passive Sentences

In Chinese, there are many passive sentences with logical meaning, which can sometimes be translated into English as active sentences. Some sentences in English are formally active, but logically still express the passive meaning. Translating passive sentences without passive verbs in Chinese into English active sentences can implement both the conversion of meaning and the correspondence of form.

5.3 Chinese Passive Sentences with Passive Symbols to English Active Sentences

Not all Chinese passive sentences must be translated into English passive sentences. Sometimes Chinese passive sentences can also be translated into English active sentences. Some words and structures in English have a passive meaning in themselves. The sentences containing such words are active sentences but actually express the passive meaning, and are called active sentences in the formal sense, but passive sentences in the logical sense.

6. Conclusion

The extensive use of passive sentences is one of the features that distinguishes English from Chinese. English is a subject-prominent language, which means that the subject is the center of the sentence. If the subject is not the performer of the action, the verb must change to show that its choice of subject is abnormal. Any phrase can be the subject of a sentence, but the verb does not need any change. The frequency and extensiveness of the use of passive sentences in both English and Chinese languages is caused by the thinking habits of the people who speak the language. In the English to Chinese translation of passive sentences, the original English text should be translated into Chinese with active or passive sentences without passive symbols as much as possible to avoid rigidly translating all English passive sentences into "bei" sentences, so as to realize the conversion of form and semantics and make the translation smooth and fluent and conform to Chinese habits. In the process of Chinese to English translation, we should carefully analyze the original Chinese text, identify whether it is an active or passive sentence, and then translate it with appropriate methods and authentic English.

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