

“FALSE FRIENDS” IN TRANSLATION PROCESS

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Abstract: *"False friends" are terms in language that describe the same or similar spelling or pronunciation in two or more languages, nonetheless their meanings are completely different, and this is a great danger for translators. There are phonetic, semantic and morphologic types of false friends. They can lead to misunderstandings and mistranslations, but there are a number of techniques to avoid them and translate correctly. By paying attention to context, using vocabulary, and gaining experience, translators can successfully deal with false friends. Accurate translation requires periodic review, constant learning, and attention to detail.*

Key words: *"false friends", phonetic false friends, semantic false friends, morphologic false friends, challenges faced by translators, context, dictionaries.*

One of the key problems for translators is "False Friends," a term that reflects the challenges faced by both translators and language learners. False friends in translation are explained in full in this article, along with their types, effects on the translation process, and ways to avoid them. What is "False friends" actually? "False friends" are terms that have entirely distinct meanings yet the same or very similar spelling or pronunciation in two or more languages. Such terms frequently generate confusion for translators because, although they appear familiar and clear at first, they actually have a different meaning. "Faux amis" is the French word from which the English term "false friends" was formed. They frequently disadvantage language learners and can result in inaccurate translations. For example, in French, "bles" means "to hurt" or "to cause injury", while in English, "bles" means "to bless". This can lead to misunderstandings in emergency situations, so it is important to know the meaning of these words.[1,2]

Types of false friends.

There are several types of false friends. They can be distinguished phonetically, semantically and morphologically:

Phonetic false friends: these words are very similar in pronunciation or spelling, but have completely different meanings. For example, interview in English = 'a series of questions in a formal situation in order to obtain information about a person'; интервью in Russian = a journalist's questioning some public figure in order to be published in mass media'. Or they can have the same origin of the third language (mainly Greek and Latin) and be borrowed both into the source and target languages: aspirant in English = 'a person who has great ambition, desires strongly, strives toward an end, aims at'; аспирант in Russian = 'a graduate student'. Sometimes the form similarity can be accidental: herb in English = 'an aromatic plant used in medicine or as seasoning'; герб in Russian = 'an object or representation that functions as a symbol'. [2,141]



Semantic false friends are terms that have the same meaning in two languages, yet they have very different meanings in different languages. For example, the Uzbek word "fabrika" indicates a manufacturing plant, but the English word "fabric" means "cloth." Or ,actual (real, existing in fact) in English- актуальный (topical) in Russian; моторист in Russian (air-fitter; machinist) – motorist (one who drives or travels in an automobile) in English. Галантный (couth) in Russian – gallant (1. Showy and gay in appearance, dress, or bearing a gallant feathered hat; 2. Stately, majestic; 3.high-spirited and courageous gallant soldiers; 4. Attentive to women, chivalrous, flirtatious) in English.[3,142]

Morphological false friends: these terms have the same root or the same form, but they have various meanings. The Uzbek term "simpatik" denotes "nice" or "loved," whereas the English word "sympathetic" simply means "compassion", or "pity". In French, "librairie" means book shop, compared to the English "library", which refers to a place where books are borrowed.[4,1]

The effect of false friends on translation.

False friends can cause errors in the translation process. If the translator does not understand the nuances of the language or the differences in the meaning of the words, it will affect the quality of his work. In the case of incorrect, legal, technical or scientific translations, these errors can have very serious consequences, as they cause the dissemination of incorrect information. For example, the English word "preservative" is often mistranslated as "prezervativ" in Uzbek , but it actually means a substance which avoids spoilage of food. When such errors appear in advertising texts, documents or scientific works, they can appear funny or erroneous, which gives a weak impression of the translation's professionalism.

How to prevent translators from having false friends?

1. Contextual analysis: In any translation process, it is important to consider the text's context in addition to the word's precise meaning. Sometimes a word's meaning can vary depending on the context, thus it's crucial to read the text in its entirety.

2. Use of dictionaries and guides: Specialized dictionaries and translators' guides may have sections specifically for false friends. For instance, multilingual dictionaries or internet resources facilitate the process of identifying a word's accurate meaning.

3. In-depth language study: In-depth knowledge of the language, understanding the cultural context, and using multiple sources will help us avoiding false friends. It is important for a translator to know not only the dictionary meanings, but also to correctly understand the scope of use of a certain word.

4. Gaining experience: During the practice of interpreting, the interpreter learns to quickly identify and avoid false friends based on his experience. With each new translation project, the translator gains new knowledge and understands how words are used in different contexts

In conclusion, false friends in English can cause confusion and misunderstanding for non-native English learners. To avoid these errors, it is important to understand the precise meaning of words in English, study the words in context and practice regularly to improve understanding of the language.



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