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Features of the Means and Devices of Denomination in French Language in Comparison with Korean Language

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Abstract: There are many cases in Korean-French translation when the equivalents are not available in French and even when there are, the mechanical translation is not possible because of the difference in their denomination of an object. This paper aims to analyse the features of the means and devices of denomination in French language in comparison with Korean language from the perspective of Korean-French translation. It studied and analysed the denominating means and devices in French language which employ direct denomination and denomination by pronouns, polysemous words, antecedents or auxiliary personal pronouns in comparison with the context and specific situations in Korean language.

Keywords: Foreign Language Study, Comparison of Both Languages, Denomination in French Language

1. Introduction

In this paper, the features of French language in terms of the means and devices of denomination have been compared and analyzed in relation with French linguistic system in comparison with those of Korean language. The means and devices of direct and indirect denomination exist in both languages, but there is a big difference as to how and how often they are used in making statements. The French language avoids the repetition of nouns in a context, whereas it permits the repetition of pronouns to a greater degree. The difference between the two languages lies in one principle, where the French language prefers to use indirect expressive means while the Korean language prefers to use direct-denominating devices. So the communicative function is focused on pronouns in the French language while it is focused on proper nouns or common nouns in the Korean language.

When denominating an object, the French language is characterized by its tendency to use non-independent elements which have a connecting function, whereas, the Korean language prefers independent words, which clearly specifies the relationship of object indication in a given sentence.

2. Literature Review

Translation is an essential subject for foreign language majors and one of the special subjects which is taught at a high level after acquiring the knowledge of the basic subjects such as intensive reading, grammar and speaking. Translation is one of the means of learning a foreign language and constitutes a mode, way and contents of foreign language study.

"Translation is not the transcoding of words or sentences from one language to another, but a complex form of action, whereby someone provides information on a source language text in a new situation and under changed functional, cultural, and linguistic conditions, preserving formal aspects as closely as possible." [10].

As can be seen in practice, it is impossible to translate to suit the feelings of the people of the target country without getting the fundamental principles of translation as well as the linguistic features and usages peculiar in its language.

However, while making a comparative study of the French version of a text and the translated Korean version, I was able to discover that how one selects and uses the means and devices of denomination is not only related with the writing style of the author or translator, but also it reflects the features of the grammatical structure of the two languages.

For example, French has a tendency of preferring indication of an object more than two or three times, while it is mentioned only once in Korean. Also the French polysemous word with abstract meaning is usually equivalent to the concrete word in Korean.

Foreign language acquisition is conducted in close combination with grasping the characteristics of that language, and comparing and analyzing the features of that language in its usages with those of the native language will provide one to have a holistic idea of the target language and a more effective method of its acquisition.

3. Discussion

When denominating an object, two methods of direct and indirect denomination can be used. Direct denomination is where the object is named directly and indirect denomination is where the words which can substitute the object are used. When an object is indirectly denominated, the correlation between the particular given object and the words used as the devices of indirect denomination is determined from its context.

The means and devices of object denomination from its context is a linguistic category, and their mission is to ensure the communicative function of a language.

The direct denomination is made possible using common and proper nouns. When a person or an object is mentioned for the first time, common nouns are usually used, but when referring to a person in the later part of the same context, proper nouns are usually used.

The main devices of indirect denomination are deixis or anaphor.

The typical category of a deixis is composed of various pronouns such as personal pronouns (je, tu, il), demonstrative pronouns (celui-ci, celui-là, cela), possesive pronouns (mien, tien, sien), indefinite pronouns (un, chacun, on), interrogative pronouns (qui, quoi), relative pronouns (qui, que, lequel, dont) etc.

The indirect denomination is usually made possible using pronouns.

A pronoun does not have a fixed concrete meaning in itself and since its meaning is changeable, the correlation between the pronoun and its object is set anew in each sentence. The changeability in the meaning of a pronoun is related with the abstraction of its meaning and, thus the abstraction and relativity of its meaning constitute the essential features of a pronoun.

In this way, a pronoun in its two forms of a deixis and an anaphor becomes the device of indirect denomination. That is to say, a pronoun can be used as a situational deixis or a contextual anaphore.

In addition to pronouns, there are other devices of indirect denomination in French such as:
(a) Pronominal words.
  ce dernier 후자 (the latter), le premier 전자, 앞의것 (the former) etc
(b) Words with abstract meaning (polysemous words) such

as those in the relationship of a genus and a species.
  cheval (horse) / animal (animal), chaise (chair) / siège (seat), téléphone (telephone) / appareil (apparatus)
(c) Words with a relational meaning such as those referring to the relationship between relatives, superiors and inferiors, permanent or temporary interpersonal relationships (including the relationships between a husband and a wife, a teacher and a student, a seller and a buyer or a doctor and a patient etc)
  maître (teacher) /élève (student), vendeur (seller) /client (client), mari (husband) / épouse (wife).
(d) Words with a qualifying or evaluative meaning.
  la pauvre femme (poor woman), le malheureux enfant (miserable child)

As these devices of indirect denomination depend on their relationship with other elements of a context, they lack independence as compared with those of direct denomination, and they only perform the fuction of connection as well as subsitution by always referring to the meaning source exisiting outside a sentence.

As they refer to the specific object only in their relationship with the meaning source, they should appear only after the primarily-denominated object. Therefore, the natural order of direct and indirect denomination tends to be the main meaning coming first and then the unknown meaning coming later, which is mostly in the form of a reprise, that is, the anaphor coming after the directly-denominated word.

(D→R) Paul revint. Il parla tout de suite.
뽈은 돌아오자마자 즉시에 말했다.
Paul said as soon as he returned.
D = direct, R = reprise

However, this order can sometimes be changed into that of R→D, which is called anticipation. In this case, the anticipation loses its expressiveness as a stylistic device and becomes a grammatical device.

It was regarded in French language that the problem of selecting a means and device of expressing an entity, that is, the problem of using a proper noun, a common noun, a pronoun, an expository phrase etc in order to refer to an object or a person was purely the problem of stylistics relating to the intention of the writer, and not in any way related to the linguistic structure. However, while making a comparative study of the French version of a text and the translated Korean version, I was able to discover that how one selects and uses the means and devices of denomination is not only related with the writing style of the author or translator, but also it reflects the features of the grammatical structure of the two languages.

Therefore, the following conclusions can be reached.

First, direct denomination in French language usually corresponds to that in Korean.
  Fr: D ↔ Cor: D.
  Chol Su frémit, la bouche ouverte, les poings sur sa poitrine.
  철수는 입을 벌리며 두 주먹을 가슴에 모아붙이고 오돌오돌 떨었다.

Chol Su shivered, his lips open and both fists on his chest.

Fr: Chol Su ↔ Cor: 철수 (Chol Su)

Second, the pronoun in French is translated into Korean using the method of direct denomination, in which a common or a proper noun is used.

Fr: Rp ↔ Cor: D (Rp: Représentant pronominal).

A. The personal pronoun in French is equivalent to a noun in Korean.

Fr: Rp ↔ Cor: N

Le matin il partit pour la campagne.

그날 아침 영수는 농촌으로 떠났다.

That morning, Yong Su left for the countryside.

il ↔ 영수(Young Su).

B. The demonstrative pronoun in French is translated into the common or proper noun in Korean.

Sun Hi raconterait sans oublier l'histoire de son amie, lorsque celui-ci se réjouirait de son roman.

순희는 책을 받아안고 기뻐할 아버지에게 옥이에 대한 이야기도 잊지 않고 하리라 생각했다.

Sun Hui thought she would remember to tell her father, who would be happy to receive the books, about Ok I.

celui-ci (that person over there) ↔아버지 (father)

son amie (her friend) ↔ 옥이 (Ok I)

C. The relative pronoun in French is translated into the personal pronoun or noun in Korean in many cases. It is because the relative pronoun in French is used as a device connecting any additional information rather than defining or qualifying an antecedent.

Il tira une lettre enveloppée et la présenta à Yong Su, qui s'accouda sur l'oreiller pour la lire.

그가 봉인한 편지를 꺼내어 영수에게 넘겨주자 그는 베개우에 팔꿈치를 고이고 편지(그것)를 읽었다.

As soon as he took out the enveloped letter and passed it to Yong Su, he rested his elbows on the pillows and began to read the letter.

qui ↔Yong Su ↔ 그 (영수)

qui ↔Yong Su ↔ he (Yong Su)

On voyait dans les écuries par le dessus des portes ouvertes, de gros chevaux de labour qui mangeaient tranquillement dans des râteliers neufs.

열어젖힌 외양간문으로 살찐 역마들이 보였는데 (그 말들은) 시렁에 넣어준 신선한 풀을 조용히 뜯어먹고있었다.

Through the open door of the stable was seen stout workhorses, which (the workhorses) were silently grazing on the fresh grass on the shelf.

qui ↔ chevaux ↔ 역마들 (workhorses)

As can be seen in the example, the pronoun in French has a connecting function in many cases and the pronoun in Korean is used as the device of indirect denomination.

Generally, the phrase connected by a relative pronoun in French is equivalent to an extended sentence in Korean. However, the relative phrase in French is often used to give an additional information rather than to characterize an antecedent. Therefore, in this case, the Korean equivalent becomes the independent sentence explained by a directly-denominated word or a personal pronoun.

The relative pronoun in French is equivalent to the personal pronoun or a noun in Korean. In many cases, there does not exist a translation equivalent in Korean for the personal pronoun in French and so the method of direct denomination which employs a noun is used.

D. The personal pronoun in French is equivalent to the noun in Korean in many cases and is used as a device to avoid the repetition of a pronoun.

Quand Su Nam… après être monté adieu au père, rentra dans la salle avant de partir, il la trouva debout, le front contre la fenêtre.

수남이가 아버지에게 인사를 하고 아래방으로 내려왔을 때 어머니는 창문가에 서서 밖을 내다보고있었다.

When Su Nam came down to the room after having said goodbye to his_father, his mother was standing by the window, looking out.

la ↔ 어머니(mother)

E. The indefinite pronoun in French has an equivalent in Korean.

Aurait-il jamais de quoi l'entretenir dans les écoles du gouvernement?

그가 아들을 정부가 운영하는 학교에 보낼 형편이 되는가?

Can he afford to send his son to a governement-run school?

quoi ↔ l'entretenir dans les écoles (send him to a government-run school)

Third, the French polysemous word with abstract meaning is usually equivalent to the concrete word in Korean.

(Fr: Rp ↔ Cor: D).

Chon Su accablé de fatigue jeta un regard autour de lui, l'échine à demi red-ressé, la pioche à la main. Personne. Il abandonna son outil à terre, alla à l'endroit où se trouvait un tas de bois de service.

일에 지친 천수는 곡괭이를 손에 쥔채 허리를 반쯤 펴며 주위를 살펴보았다. 아무도 없었다. 그는 곡괭이를 땅에 놓고 각목을 쌓아둔 곳으로 갔다.

Chon Su, exhausted from work, raised his back halfway with an axe still in his hand and looked about. There was no one. He put the axe down and went to where the square bars were stacked.

pioche ↔ outil ↔ 곡괭이 (axe)

Fourth, the French word with a relative, qualifying or evaluative meaning is usually translated into a proper noun in Korean using the device of direct denomination.

F. Relative meaning:

Il cria, en trépignant, "Jong Ok !"

"누나야 !" 첫째는 고함을 지르며 발을

동동 굴렀다.

"Sister!", Chot Tsai cried, both feet jumping up and down.

Jong Ok ↔ 누나 (sister).

"Jong Ok, Chol Nam est mort."

"누나야, 철남이가 죽었어."

"Jong Ok, Chol Nam is dead."

However, it is not the case where all proper nouns in French are changed into relative words in Korean in a context.

"Ma soeur est chef de section dans le Corps des Enfants " répondit fièrement Cheu Tsai en jetant un regard en coin sur Jong Ok.

"우리 누나는 아동단 소대장입니다." 첫째가 자랑스럽게 말하며 누나를 힐끔 쳐다보았다.

"My sister is a platoon leader of Children's Corps." said Chot Tsai proudly, giving a glance at Jong Ok.

Jong Ok ↔ soeur ↔ 누나 (sister)

As can be seen in the example, the "sister" in the Korean version was used differently as "ma soeur" or "Jong Ok" in the French version of translation. It is due to the feature of the French language in its usages, which aims to avoid repetition of the same word in the same context and to diversify modes of expression.

G. Evaluative meaning:

Jeanne s'affaissa par terre. La pauvre femme éclata des de pleurs.

쟌느는 땅에 풀썩 주저앉았다. 불쌍한 녀인은 눈물을 흘리며 꺼이꺼이 울었다.

Jeanne collapsed to the ground. The miserable woman was wailing, tears running down her face.

Jeanne - pauvre femme (miserable woman)

Fifth, the anticipatory pronoun in French is translated into the post-pronoun in Korean.

Fr: R←D Cor: D→R

Quand Yong Su lui raconta, Sun Hi s'emporta bien contre son confrère. 영수가 순희에게 그 사실을 이야기하자 그(순희)는 몹시 화를 냈다.

When Yong Su told Sun Hui of the fact, she got very angry with him.

confrère (colleague) ↔ Yong Su, lui (her)↔ Sun Hi

Sixth, French is characterized in that it indicates an object more than is necessary by using auxiliary personal nouns as compared with Korean.

Pierre choisit une poire, la pela et se mit à la manger.

삐에르는 배 하나를 골라서 껍질을 벗긴 다음 먹기 시작하였다.

Piere chose a pear, peeled it and then began to eat it.

poire (pear) ↔ la (it).

As can be seen, while an object is indicated more than two or three times in French, it is mentioned only once in Korean.

As analyzed above, the means and devices of direct and indirect denomination exist in both languages, but there is a big difference as to how and how often they are used in making statements.

Replacing one device with another denominating device in Korean or French language is related with the desire to diversify expressions.

French language avoids using the same word repeatedly in a context unless it does a particular stylistic function. Of course, Korean language too is influenced by the desire to avoid repetition and diversity its expressive means. The thing is such a tendency is realized in different ways in various word categories.

In conclusion, the French language avoids the repetition of nouns in a context, whereas it permits the repetition of pronouns to a greater degree. This is because the pronouns in French not only function in order to meet the requirement of sentential completion being focused around the verb but also because they act as contextual connecting devices.

However, the Korean language permits the repetition of nouns but avoids the repetition of pronouns, in other words, it often uses directing denomination. In case of changing the topic, the French language retains the pronouns while it is regarded almost compulsory to use direct denomination by employing nouns in Korean language.

억쇠는 지금 그저 기쁘고 즐거웠다. 그는 입술을 동그랗게 오무리고 휘파람을 슬슬 불었다.

Il était maintenant au comble de sa joie, ses lèvres arrondies sifflaient un air.

Ok Shoe was now happy and pleasant – he puckered his lips round in a whistle.

억쇠 (Ok Shoe) ↔ il (he)

첫째는 연기에 짓물린 눈을 비비며 불타는 학교를 바라보고있었다. 온 마을사람들이 봄내 달라붙어 새로 지은 학교다.

Cheu Tsai contemplait l'école incendiée, ses yeux qui larmoyaient sous l'effet de la fumée Tous les villageois l'avaient édifiée tout au long du printemps.

Chot Tsai was staring at the burning school, rubbing his eyes blackened by smog. It was built all through the spring by the efforts of the entire villagers.

la ↔ école ↔학교 (school)

Words with abstract and relational meaning in both languages all play the role of auxiliary devices in order to realize the diversification of object-denominating devices. Thus, they are used to avoid repetition of proper nouns in French language, while they are used to avoid the repetition of pronouns in Korean language.

Therefore the difference between the two languages lies in one principle, where the French language prefers to use indirect expressive means while the Korean language tends to use direct-denominating devices. So the communicative function is focused on pronouns in the French language while it is focused on proper nouns or common nouns in the Korean language.

As seen above, in denominating objects, the French language prefers non-independent elements which have a connecting function – that is pronouns and words of a pronoun category, whereas the Korean language prefers the use of independent elements.

The features of the French language in which it forms

statement with the repeated use of pronouns can be explained from the point of semantic and stylistic requirement as well as from grammatical structural factors.

The reason why the French language highly tends to use indirect-denominating devices as compared with Korean language is because from the grammatical structural point of view, the French language has a comparatively high degree of pronoun usage.

The reason why pronouns have a high rate of usage in the context of French language is because the French language is characterized by transitivity and grammatical completion in its utterance. In the course of French language development, the inflectional ending of nouns disappeared, and as sentential combinations got closer and closer, pronouns and words of its category came to be used more widely. Thus, pronouns are often omitted in Korean language as they become semantically substitutable words, however, in French, as the inflectional form was reduced and the role played by pronouns in sentence organization got bigger, the pronouns could almost fulfil the role of connecting sentences as well as adapting to contexts or situations.

4. Conclusion

In this paper, the features of the means and devices of denomination in French language in comparison with Korean language were analyzed.

When denominating an object, the French language is characterized by its tendency to use non-independent elements which have a connecting function, whereas, the Korean language prefers independent words which clearly specifies the relationship of object indication in a given sentence.

The linguistic basis for these differences found in the usages of denominating devices in French and Korean languages is that, in a word, French language has a high degree of grammatical independence in its linguistic structure but a low degree of semantical independence and a high degree of dependence on context. On the other hand, Korean language has a high degree of semantical independence and a low degree of grammatical completion, thus a little interruption made in a discourse causes the correlation between objects, situations and contexts to be set anew. Therefore, it inevitably requires the direct denomination of the object.

The context in French language heavily depends on the line of the story and restricts syntactical function. It is first because although Korean language is slightly influenced by the word order as all syntactical relations are expressed by means of rich particles, whereas the French language, which has no case category, is comparatively greatly influenced by the word order as all the syntactical relations are expressed also by word order and auxiliary words.

Therefore, in French language, only when an object is indirectly denominated on the basis of the context or the linguistic scene, can contextual coherence be made. On the other hand, the direct denomination of an object presents a new information in relation with the afore-said information.

The other reason why pronominal words are used comparatively on a high degree in the French language is because of the features of statement formation in French language which uses abstract (polysemous) words extensively.

There are comparatively a large number of words with a wide meaning, which is a customary feature of language usage, in which French people generally prefer to use polysemous words. As long as the agent of action is clearly specified in the context or situation, French language usually uses words of a genus and abstract words with a wide meaning although there exists words of concrete meaning.

Mettez-vous là！앉으시오！(Sit down !)
(Instead of "Asseyez-vous!")
Servez-vous en！(음식을)드십시오！(Help yourself!)
(Instead of "Prenez s'il vous plait")
L'appareil décolle. 비행기가 리륙한다. (The plane is taking off.)
(Instead of "avion")
Qui est à l'appareil？누구십니까？(Who's speaking?)
(When calling someone on the telephone.)

In this paper, the features of French language in terms of the means and devices of denomination have been compared and analyzed in relation with French linguistic system in comparison with those of Korean language.

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