

Lecture 8

29/03/2020

Good morning,

This is the script of our eighth lecture in the second semester. This is also the third week of online lectures. The script is posted two days in advance.

First of all, I would like to thank you all for your active and immediate participation in the activities through your translated texts post as comments. Your work is appreciated.

In this lecture, we will move on to specialized translation. This is, hence, our first lecture in specialized translation and our second lecture in translation from Arabic into English. In this lecture, we will focus on economic terminology. You must translate the text, or at least read it, before you read the explanation to be able to understand it.

Explanation:

The Arabic text is very terse. The writer's style is paratactic; it uses "parataxis" which is "placing clauses or phrases one after another, without words to indicate coordination or subordination." In this text, words and phrases are placed one after another to explain the two main economic terms: recession and depression. The text is written by a specialist economist who presumes that his audience understand the relation between each and every step and the next. He assumes that the relation between each economic phenomenon and what follows is clear to the audience and is in no need for explanation. Hence, he just places them by each other. The translator may need to explain the relation between each term and the next as tersely as possible to maintain the structure of the sentence. He might also need to add some

conjunctions to set different terms apart. Therefore, it needs some kind of modification. The translator must write correct and comprehensible English sentences yet s/he must also keep the changes s/he makes to minimum. Therefore, you will notice the addition of some conjunctions like “and,” “moreover,” and “on the other hand” which keep the flow of the English sentence and indicate the relation between terms – whether they follow logically or stand in opposition to each other. Please, notice also that it is not preferable to repeat the same word in an English sentence. Therefore, some changes will take place to avoid repetition. Thus, we will pay attention to two features in this translation lesson. The first is related to vocabulary or economic terminology. The second is related to the style and clarity of the translated text.

The translated text:

It has been lately noticed that some economic terms are mistakenly used in the articles written by some economic journalists and are also confused by some officials. One such mistake is confusing recession and depression. Recession is the decline in demand and the slowdown of the movement of sales which lead to factory shutdown, more unemployment, the decrease of income and purchases and consequently to the reduction of consumption, production and the GDP (Gross domestic product).

Depression, on the other hand, is the continuation of recession for two consecutive business cycles. The classic example to differentiate both is: in time of recession, your neighbor loses his job; in time of depression, both you and your neighbor lose your jobs. The usual solution for this problem is to increase government expenditure, create more jobs, reduce the interest rate and provide more economic and financial incentives to activate demand and consumption which, in

turn, leads increasing work and production once again. The disadvantages of this solution is the increase of inflation and budget deficit.

Commentary:

First: vocabulary

Term/ terminology مصطلح

Officials المسؤولين

Recession ركود اقتصادي

Depression كساد اقتصادي

Supply العرض

Demand الطلب

The law of supply and demand قانون العرض والطلب

Decline

Slowdown التباطؤ

Sales

Shutdown

Employment

Unemployment

Income

Purchase

Purchasing power قوة شرائية

Production

Consumption استهلاك

GDP (Gross Domestic Product) إجمالي الناتج المحلي

Business cycle/ economic cycle

Expenditure المصارفات / المصارف

Interest rate سعر الفائدة

Incentive حافز

Inflation التضخم

Budget deficit عجز في الميزانية

Second: Style

As you must have noticed, the writer's use of paratactic style allows him to add nouns next to each other without repeating the verb. The verb decrease, for instance, is used with many nouns without being repeated. In order to avoid repetition in English, the translator must resort to using synonyms like decline, reduce and lower. The same is true of the repetition of nouns; we use decrease and reduction.

As for the new text that will be translated for next lecture, it will be posted on 29/03/2020.

I wish you all the best of luck!