

Literal vs free translation

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Both literal and free translations have their place in translation practice. The choice between them depends on the nature of the text, the target audience, and the desired outcome¹²³.

Speaking about methods or approaches of translation: literal translation and free translation are two basic translating skills. Proper use of these two translation approaches can make your translation better.

Literal translation refers to a method to render text from one language to another by following closely the form of the source language. Definitely different from mechanical translation (word-for-word translation), literal translation shall provide a fluent and accurate translation that is easily comprehended by the readers of the target language.

Translation is a method to deliver the intended meaning of the source text without paying attention to details such as syntax, style, and so on of the original text. Free translation is suitable in case the translation is difficult to be understood or accepted by the readers or the translation does not as attractive or powerful as the original text by the approach of a literal translation.

People often get confused between literal and free translation. Moreover, they get confused about how to handle different types of translation. Which type of translation should be used? It depends solely on your target audience.

Keep in mind that the audience that is reading your text might be monolingual. Different from a translator, they will not check the source to help them understand the translated text. Literal translations are really difficult to read and comprehend.

It is because when the translator sticks too much to the source it loses the intended message; however, it is recommended to use literal translation when your document is full of technical terminologies.

On the other hand, if your content is generic then you should avoid literal translation and go for free translation. It will help your content sound natural in another language. To retain the original essence of the translation is the work of the skilled translator. If you follow some steps then you can provide your audience with seamless free translation

Accurate translation means conveying the right message despite changing the order of the words and sentences. The translated text should sound like it is written for you.

When translating the UI strings, generally you can follow the syntax of the source text and get an accurate and acceptable translation. Please note such pronouns as "you", "your", "we", etc. have not to be translated in most

cases.

In papermaking, the coating working station is a circulation system that pumps the homogenized coating colors from the storage tanks in the coating color kitchen through filters in the processing tanks and then to the coating head.

Whether it is the literal translation or free translation, you have to opt for the translation process according to your translation requirements. CCJK has a team of native translators who are also subject matter experts in their field. If you require a literal translation or a free translation, you can get services from proficient translators at a fast turnaround time and affordable rates.

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