

FALSE FRIENDS OF TRANSLATORS. UNDERSTANDING ENGLISH-GERMAN TRANSLATIONS

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TARJIMONLARNING YOLG'ON DO'STLARI. INGLIZ- NEMIS TARJIMALARINI TUSHUNISH

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ЛОЖНЫЕ ДРУЗЬЯ ПЕРЕВОДЧИКОВ. ПОНИМАНИЕ АНГЛИЙСКО-НЕМЕЦКИХ ПЕРЕВОДОВ

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Abstract: The translation of false friends between English and German languages presents a significant challenge due to semantic disparities and lexical ambiguities of these languages. In this article the analysis of the different types of false friends is given, and the semantic and stylistic meanings of them is examined in depth. It also provides the list of different types of English-German false friends.

Key words: False friends, Cognates, Translation, English, German, Corpus linguistics.

Annotatsiya: Ingliz va nemis tillari o'rtasidagi yolg'on do'stlarning tarjimasi ushbu tillarning ma'noviy farqlari va leksikaviy noaniqliklari sababli tarjimonlarga ko'plab qiyinchiliklar tug'diradi. Ushbu maqolada yolg'on do'stlarning har xil turlari tahlil qilingan va ularning ma'noviy, uslubiy tushunchalari keng doirada o'rganilgan. Shuningdek, maqolada ingliz-nemis tillaridagi turli xil yolg'on do'stlarning ro'yxati ham taqdim etilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: yolg'on do'stlar, kognatlar, tarjima, ingliz tili, nemis tili, korpus tilshunoslik.

Аннотация: Перевод ложных друзей между английским и немецким языками представляет собой значительное испытание из-за семантических различий и лексических неоднозначностей этих языков. В данной статье представлен анализ различных типов ложных друзей, и глубоко рассматриваются их семантические и стилистические значения. Также предоставляется список различных типов англо-немецких ложных друзей.

Ключевые слова: ложные друзья, когнаты, перевод, английский язык, немецкий язык, корпусная лингвистика.

INTRODUCTION. Many may find it unexpected that German and English share numerous similarities. These languages have a common ancestry dating back to the Germanic tribes of Northern Europe centuries ago. Both German and English which classified as West Germanic languages exhibit significant similarities in grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. One noteworthy aspect of this shared heritage is the considerable number of words that are identical in both languages.

One of the factors contributing to the abundance of shared words between German and English is the presence of *cognates*. Cognates refer to words in different languages that derive from the same source and possess similar meanings. Many words in both German and English are cognates because they share a common ancestor within the Germanic language family. For example, the English word “*Water*” and its German equivalent “*Wasser*” are cognates originating from a common ancestor in the Proto-Germanic language [1].

However, not all similar words in German and English can be considered cognates. Some words, classified as *false friends*, share visual or phonetic similarities but possess different meanings. For example, the English word “*Bald*” means “*without hair*”, whereas the German word “*Bald*” translates to “*soon*”. False friends can be misleading and especially for translators they can lead to lots of misunderstandings. Because, not knowing the exact meaning of these words can lead to inaccurate translations.

MATERIALS AND METHODS. The materials used in this study included a diverse range of bilingual texts in English and German, selected to encompass various domains and registers of language use. Additionally, computational tools and software developed for corpus analysis and translation were utilized as part of the methodological framework. Annotated corpora and translation datasets formed the core materials for analysis and evaluation of translation methodologies.

DISCUSSION. The challenge of translating international lexicons stands out as one of the most pressing issues, yet unfortunately, it

remains insufficiently studied. Translators must navigate through numerous pseudo-internationalisms that can confound even the most skilled professionals, potentially changing its original meaning. They also grapple with dilemmas regarding whether to preserve the international term or opt for an equivalent in the native or target language. Our study aims to shed light on common errors encountered by translators working with such lexicons, offering insights into their origins and strategies for avoidance [2].

False friends, despite sharing identical forms, have distinct origins and meanings across different languages. They can also be likened to homonyms within a single language. Semantic false friends, on the other hand, stem from the same etymology but diverge in meaning between languages, yet retain detectable semantic connections. They can be likened to poly-semantic words within a language. The ties between their meanings across languages may be rooted in metaphor, metonymy, euphemism, specialization, or generalization. Semantic false friends reflect the historical pragmatics of language evolution across time and space [3].

RESULTS. Studying false friends extends beyond diachronic pragmatics, holding implications for translation and cross-linguistic communication. Recognizing false friends and employing pragmatic strategies are essential in avoiding misunderstandings or mistranslations. Moreover, delving into the figurative connections among false friends enriches cognitive semantics with a clear perspective.

Here are in these three tables below the different types of English-German false friends and their meanings are given:

Table 1. The description of English-German false friends which are similar in form

English version:	German version:	German equivalent of English version:
Art (n) = the use of painting, drawing, sculpture etc to represent things or express ideas	Die Art (kind; sort or type)	<i>Die Kunst</i>
Bad (adj) = unpleasant or likely to cause problems	Das Bad (bath, bathroom or spa)	<i>Schlecht or schlimm</i>
Brand (n) = a type of product made by a particular company, that has a particular name or design	Die Brand (fire)	<i>Die Marke or das Markenprodukt</i>
Brief (adj) = continuing for a short time	Der Brief (letter)	<i>Kurz</i>
Gift (n) = something that you give someone, for example to thank them or because you like them, especially on a special occasion	Das Gift (poison)	<i>Das Geschenk</i>
Herd (n) = a group of animals of one kind that live and feed together	Der Herd (stove; cooker or oven)	<i>Die Herde</i>
Kind(adj) = used to describe a person with a particular character, feelings, opinions etc; sort, type	Das Kind (kid or child)	<i>Nett or die Art</i>
Promotion (n) = a move to a more important job or position in a company or organization	Die Promotion (graduation or graduation ceremony)	<i>Die Förderung</i>
Rate(n) = estimate value or worth of	Die Rate (instalment)	<i>Einschätzen</i>
Stock (n) = a supply of a particular type of thing that a shop has available to sell	Der Stock (floor or stick)	<i>Die Aktie or der Vorrat</i>
Taste (v) = to have a particular kind of taste	Die Taste (a key on the keyboard)	<i>Kosten or schmecken</i>

Table 2. The description of English-German false friends with little difference in form.

English version:	German version	German equivalent of English version:
Decent (adj) = not vulgar or immoral; modest	Dezent (discreet)	<i>Anständig</i>
Fabric (n) = cloth used for making clothes, curtains etc	Die Fabrik (factory)	<i>Der Stoff</i>
Confession (n) = a statement that you have done something wrong, illegal, or embarrassing, especially a formal statement	Die Konfession (religious denomination)	<i>Das Geständnis or die Beichte</i>

Table 3. The description of English-German false friends with little difference in grammatical form.

English version:	German version:	German equivalent of English version:
Grab (v) = to take hold of someone or something with a sudden or violent movement	Graben (to dig)	<i>Greifen</i>
Irritate (v) = to make someone feel annoyed or impatient, especially by doing something many times or for a long period of time	Irritieren (to confuse)	<i>Ärgern</i>
Spend (v) = to use your money to pay for goods or services	Spenden (to donate)	<i>Ausgeben or verbringen</i>

To address the translation challenges posed by false friends between English and German, innovative approaches using a corpus-driven methodology are proposed. Firstly, extensive language corpora are analyzed to identify usage patterns and context-specific meanings for each false friend pair. This empirical analysis of real-life language usage aids translators in understanding how native speakers interpret and employ these words, thus facilitating more precise translations. Secondly, specialized translation algorithms or software tools can be developed, integrating corpus data to suggest appropriate translations for false friends based on context. By examining the surrounding words and phrases in the corpus, these tools determine the most suitable translation for each instance of a false friend, considering factors such as collocations, idiomatic expressions, and sentence structures. Lastly, the creation of a bilingual corpus specifically focused on false friends between English and German can further aid translation efforts. This corpus would comprise parallel texts in both languages, annotated with translations for each false friend pair, along with contextual information. Translators could utilize this resource to find accurate translations for false friends in various contexts [4].

CONCLUSION. In conclusion, with the increasing internationalization of English and German, the issue of false friends becomes more pertinent. Given that both languages develop within ethnocentric cultures, the prevalence of false friends

is rapidly growing. Newly emerging false friends in English and German yet are not yet documented in the respective false friends. Additionally, there is an increase in new multi-word expressions that are used differently. Therefore, one of the key objectives of modern linguistics is to update the dictionaries to meet current lexicographical standards. This study illustrated the semantic and stylistic differences in the meaning of English-German expressions which are considered as false friends, as well as innovative approaches to translate them by using a corpus-driven approach. All in all, corpus linguistics, as an empirical research approach, should enable the investigation of language usage, particularly regarding new lexical units, and should serve as a reliable resource for lexicography.

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