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Concerning machine translation: Based on some paroemiae in the Russian↔Chinese pair of languages

Abstract

The present paper aims to assess the quality of Russian-to-Chinese and Chinese-to-Russian machine translation of phraseological units exemplified by famous Confucius analects and popular Russian proverbs and sayings included in the coursebook of Russian as L2 for Chinese students. The material for the study comprised 20 authentic units, 4 variants of their machine translations and 1 translation variant performed by a professional human interpreter. Comparative analysis of the total of 120 units showed low quality of machine translations despite a considerable progress achieved since the times of designing and testing first automated two-language dictionary to inventing automated translation systems based on neural networks with automated memory installed. To solve the problem for the Russian \leftrightarrow Chinese pair of languages, we need to design and install a constantly updated automated dictionary of phraseological units together with the mechanisms of applying it in the systems of machine translation.

Keywords: machine translation, online translator, phraseological unit, paroemia, lacuna, translation technique

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