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Basic translation methods English-vietnamese and Vietnamese-English on the topic of economics

Luong Thi Hai Ha
Faculty of Basic Sciences, Tan Trao University, Vietnam

* Corresponding Author: **Luong Thi Hai Ha**

Article Info

Abstract
Translation is a difficult skill in language learning in general and in learning English in particular. Translation on economic topics is often considered an interesting topic, attracting many readers; however, it is a challenging subject due to economic terminology, sometimes influenced by translation methods. This article is based on translation theories to explore translation methods from English to Vietnamese and Vietnamese to English on the topic of economics. It aims to provide insights into translation and propose some basic translation methods, along with examples of translated texts related to the "Economics" topic, to enhance vocabulary in economic terms and refine translation skills for learners.

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1. Introduction

Economics is one of the crucial fields where accurate and in-depth translation of information and economic documents is often required from one language to another to ensure a correct and clear understanding of information, policies, and economic figures. Translation in the field of economics demands a profound understanding of terminology, policies, and economic concepts. Research on basic translation methods will help you gain a clearer understanding of the economic context and how to interpret each term and phrase accurately.

With the opening of economies and multilateral relationships, the demand for economic translation between English and Vietnamese, and vice versa, is steadily increasing. Researching translation methods in this field will help grasp more effective and accurate ways of conveying information. Understanding the methods of economic translation between English and Vietnamese, and vice versa, not only facilitates effective communication between nations but also contributes to the development of culture and the training of a workforce knowledgeable in international economics.

This article relies on theories of English-Vietnamese and Vietnamese-English translation to present translation methods for the economics theme. It not only enhances in-depth knowledge of translation but also provides valuable support for international business activities and communication.

2. Content
2.1. Common issues in translation
2.1.1. Overview of translation research status

The history of translation is ancient and has developed concurrently with the evolution of various cultures and languages worldwide. Translation has played a crucial role in conveying knowledge, culture, and information between nations and different cultures since ancient times.

Globally, in ancient times, translation was conducted by converting texts from one language to another through interpretation and a profound understanding of culture and language. Ancient translators were often multilingual experts with in-depth knowledge of various cultures.

In the Middle Ages, translation continued to evolve through activities translating literary classics from Greek and Latin into various European languages. Famous translation works such as Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales" were translated from French to English [4]. During the Renaissance and Enlightenment, the translation of scientific, philosophical, and literary works increased. Translation began to formalize as a field, with the publication of many important translated works. From the 20th century to the present, the development of information technology and telecommunications has strongly propelled the growth of translation, from machine translation and online translation to translation support tools. Nowadays, translation is not only about language conversion but also involves in-depth analysis of culture, language, and technology.

During the 1920s in the former Soviet Union, Maxim Gorky established schools to train translators of poetry and prose. He also published the book "Principles of Literary Translation" marking the first mention of the concept of "translation theory". From the 1950s onwards, the theoretical aspects of translation expanded into various fields such as science and technology, political discourse, oral translation, translation for educational purposes, and encompassed the entire range of language activities as a specific communicative action. The concept of "translation" then referred to any operation aimed at replacing one system of signs with another while retaining the content of information [5].

In particular, the American linguist Jakobson distinguished translation into three different forms: Intralingual translation (traduction intralinguale), Interlingual translation (traduction interlinguale), and Intersemiotic translation (traduction intersémiotique).

In the realm of translation studies, various authors have contributed to the research. For instance, Halliday proposed the theory of hierarchical grammar in translation; Nida & Taber (1969) and Svejcer (1987) delved into the theory of communicative activities in translation. Hartmann (1980) and Gutt (1991) explored the theory of translating texts, suggesting that translations should go beyond the textual level and aim at discovering and achieving communicative interaction. This perspective was further developed by Peter Newmark (1995) from a more specific angle.

In Vietnam, inheriting research outcomes from around the world and in tandem with the development of translation practices, scholars, writers, and researchers have shown interest in studying translation across various fields since centuries past. Author Le Quang Thiem (1989), in the work "Comparative Study of Languages" [9] discussed theoretical aspects of translation. Recent translation studies tend to expand from theoretical research to practical investigations, addressing specific issues. For instance, author Nguyen Thuong Hung (2005) explored translation from theory to practice in the work "Translation: From Theory to Practice" [5]. Author Nguyen Hong Con has contributed to translation studies with a series of works, such as "Some Issues of Language and Culture in Translation" (2003), "Linguistic Foundation of Translation Research and the Discipline of Translation Studies" (2004), "Translation: Nature and Some Theoretical Models" (2005), "A History of Translation" (2006), Author Do Thanh presented "Theory and Practice of Translation" in 2013, etc. In addition to the mentioned

authors and their works, there are others contributing to translation studies, including researchers such as Hoang Van Van (2005), Le Hung Tien (2007), and Luu Trong Tuan (2008).

2.1.2. The Concept of translation and translation methods
In the work "Theory and Practice of Translation" author Do Thanh [9], based on processes and results, states: "Translation is a complex and creative process where the translator delves into the nuances of the original's meaning, creating an entirely new text. This translated text retains every shade of meaning that the translator discerns through the analysis and interpretation of the original. Translation is a unique form of communication among speakers of different languages, often referred to as interlingual communication". Human communication through language in science is called language-based communication, and each specific communicative instance is referred to as a communicative action". From this perspective, the author derives the concept: "Translation is the process of transforming a language product from one language into the language of another without altering its content, meaning the sense it conveys".

The process of translation is not merely the act of translating word by word or sentence by sentence from one language to another but also involves a deep understanding of the context, style, and meaning in the original text to convey the full and accurate meaning.

Forms of translation include: "look – write"; "listen – write"; "look - speak (write - speak)"; "listen - speak (speak - speak)".

Translation is not limited to two main languages like English-Vietnamese, Vietnamese-English, but can also involve many different language pairs worldwide. It can be applied to various fields such as literature, technology, medicine, business, law, and many other specialized areas.

Translation requires a broad understanding of language, culture, specialized knowledge, and good expression skills in both source and target languages. This ensures that the message of the original text is accurately and fluently conveyed in the new language without losing any important meaning or information.

According to some researchers on translation methods, there are various translation methods such as communicative translation, semantic translation, supplementation translation, and literal translation, used in translated texts to convey the main ideas and key content from the source text to the target text. However, for translations on economic topics, given the specialized terminology and economic phrases, Baker, M. (1992) suggests paying attention to specific translation methods:

1.2. Basic translation methods
1.2.1. Grammar translation method
The grammar translation method is a translation approach based on the grammatical structure of sentences, translating from the source language to the target language without substituting vocabulary. The foundation of equivalence in grammar translation lies in the relationship to the same context and content. This method requires the translator to have a solid understanding and identification of the elements within a sentence.

Example

+ He wrote a financial report yesterday.
  S   V   O   Adv

Ngày hôm qua, anh ta đã viết một bản báo cáo tài chính.
In practice, the grammar translation method is not applied because this approach renders the target language text meaningless.

1.2.2. Word-for-Word translation method
This translation method involves converting the source language into the target language by translating sequentially: word by word, phrase by phrase, and sentence by sentence. This translation method is often used when there is structural similarity between the two languages. The basis of equivalence between the vocabulary of the source language and the translated language but without grammatical substitution.

Example
▪ Công ty chúng tôi muốn nhập khẩu một số mặt hàng linh kiện điện tử từ Hàn Quốc.
▪ *Our company wants to import some electronic components from Korea.*

Thus, this translation method is only used in special cases, such as when there is a need to analyze, compare grammatical structures, examine the literal meanings of words or idioms, or convert vocabulary in language research.

1.2.3. Literal translation method
The literal translation method involves translating the grammatical structure of the source language into the closest structure of the target language, with the phrases translated according to the most common meanings. Words are translated individually without considering the context. In other words, literal translation starts by converting words from the source language to the target language, with possible minor modifications to sentence structure and the addition of words to fit the grammar of the target language. This process can lead to translating word-for-word in a direction from source to target. This method often focuses on selecting the most equivalent words in meaning in the target language for each vocabulary unit in the source language. In many cases, literal translation can be considered the initial step in the translation process, helping the translator identify and address issues to create a complete and accurate translation.
Example: Nhờ đóng góp cho công ty những ý tưởng sáng tạo mà tôi đã được **thăng tiến**.
→ *Thanks to creative ideas contributed to the company, I have **climbed to a higher position**.*
In the sentence above, the phrase "**thăng tiến**" has been literally translated into English as "**climbed to a higher position**".

1.2.4. Free translation method
This translation method involves recreating the theme without the need for style or reproducing the content without utilizing the form of the original text. In this approach, the translator liberates themselves from the constraints of the source language, using the target language to express the meaning of the original text naturally and in accordance with the context and culture of the target language.
In free translation, there is no absolute constraint on the equivalence of translation at the level of translation units. This means that translation units in the source text may not correspond at the same level to each other; for instance, a word may be translated into a phrase, or a phrase may be transformed into a sentence. Equivalence is often determined at the highest level, namely the sentence level, and sometimes at larger levels, such as the text level.

Example
▪ Đồng Tháp Province in the Mekong Delta region has **become a magnet** for foreign investment.
▪ The original meaning of the phrase "*become a magnet*" is "**trở thành một cục nam châm**."
▪ Free translation: *Tỉnh Đồng Tháp ở khu vực đồng bằng sông Cửu Long đã trở thành **điểm thu hút** cho các đầu tư nước ngoài.*

The original phrase "đã đóng góp không nhỏ" can be translated to English as "have made a significant contribution".
Free translation is a common type of translation, and in many cases, translators are compelled to use this method to convey the content from the original text to the translated text in a manner that aligns with the expressions or grammatical structures of the target language.

1.2.5. The ellipsis translation method
Ellipsis involves omitting a word, phrase, or sentence from the original text during the translation process for a specific reason. This method can lead to two outcomes: the translation may either lose essential information or discard unnecessary information.
The loss of crucial information is a consequence of inadequate translation. Translation omissions can occur intentionally due to skimming and summary translation or lack of language knowledge. On the other hand, removing redundant information that is not applicable to the target language can result in a clearer translation.
Example: Tại cuộc hội thảo bàn tròn với một số tập đoàn hàng đầu Nhật Bản tại Tokyo vào thứ Hai, Thủ tướng Nguyễn Xuân Phúc cho biết Việt Nam hoan nghênh chào đón các dự án đầu tư chất lượng cao từ Nhật Bản, đặc biệt là các dự án về cơ sở hạ tầng.
→ Việt Nam welcomes high-quality investment projects from Japan, especially in infrastructure, Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc said in a round-table talk with some of Japan's leading corporations in Tokyo on Monday
In the above sentence, the phrase "**các dự án**" (projects) has been omitted, and the sentence still retains its meaning. If the translator were to add the phrase "**projects in infrastructure**" the sentence would become redundant and deviate from the appropriate style in the English translation.

2.1.3. Some notes in the translation process on the topic of "Economics"
To produce a quality translation that effectively conveys the content of the original author on the topic of economics, the translator should undertake several actions to enhance and refine translation skills:
▪ Before translating a text, the translator should initially skim through the content, grasp the essence of the text, and formulate the translation method and content in their

mind.

- Carefully re-read the text, marking difficult passages, specialized terms, or unclear sentences. Note that a word or phrase in a text may have multiple meanings and different expressions. When translating, the translator should strive to capture the intended meaning of the author for accurate translation.
- During the translation process, the use of English or Vietnamese phrases and grammatical structures with similar or equivalent meanings is recommended.
- In some cases, the translator should avoid translating word-for-word, as it may not ensure the accurate conveyance of the author's ideas. Particularly, to understand the document's meaning, it is essential to interpret meanings by sentences and paragraphs rather than individual words.
- Know how to select and retain root words, main terms, and may eliminate unnecessary words or irrelevant ideas. Editing the translations can ensure that the meaning of the sentence remains consistent with the original text.
- When encountering lengthy and challenging sentences with multiple clauses, the translator may break them into shorter sentences, ensuring that the meaning of the sentence and clauses remains intact and unchanged from the original text.
- Maintain cohesion, coherence, and clarity in the translated text. The style should be smooth, clear, and the content accurate. Convey the message and meaning of the original text comprehensively and eloquently, avoiding loss or alteration of important meanings.
- After completing the translation, review the translation to correct errors and enhance the overall quality of the translated text.
- Use reference materials and reliable sources of information to support the translation process and verify information.

2.2. Translate English-Vietnamese on the topic of "Economy"

When performing translation from English to Vietnamese on the topic of "Economy", there are several important requirements to consider to ensure quality and a thorough understanding of the content. Below are some requirements for translating English to Vietnamese on the "Economy's topic:

- Contextual understanding: Ensure a clear understanding of the context and objectives of the text. A comprehensive knowledge of the subject matter further enhances the accuracy of the translation.

Example: *The company's Q4 financial report shows a significant increase in revenue. This surge can be attributed to the successful implementation of their new marketing strategy, focusing on digital platforms and targeted online campaigns. The CEO expressed satisfaction with the results, highlighting the impact of the recent partnership with a prominent e-commerce platform.*

Company XYZ's Q4 Financial Report
(Source: Internal Financial Statements, 2024)

Translated into Vietnamese:
Báo cáo tài chính Q4 của công ty cho thấy một tăng trưởng đáng kể về doanh thu. Sự tăng trưởng này có thể được cho là việc triển khai thành công chiến lược tiếp thị mới của họ, tập

trung vào các nền tảng kỹ thuật số và các chiến dịch trực tuyến có mục tiêu. Giám đốc điều hành thể hiện sự hài lòng với kết quả, nhấn mạnh tác động tích cực của mối quan hệ hợp tác gần đây với một nền tảng thương mại điện tử nổi tiếng

Analysis: In this case, understanding the context is crucial for accurately translating business concepts and terms from English to Vietnamese. If the translator lacks a clear understanding of how the company implements new marketing strategies, especially focusing on digital platforms and online campaigns, it may lead to misunderstandings and the loss of important information. A deep understanding of the subject area (in this case, finance and marketing) helps the translator choose appropriate language and preserve the original meaning of the text. The success of translation depends heavily on applying specialized knowledge of context and specific business domains.

- Preserve meaning: Translate in a way that preserves the original meaning, without losing important information or causing misunderstandings.

Example: *The new software update introduces several enhancements to the user interface, streamlining the navigation process. Users can now enjoy a more intuitive experience, with improved functionality and faster response times.*

[*Source: Internal Financial Statements,* www.ecamplecompany.com, *2021*]

Translated into Vietnamese: *Bản cập nhật phần mềm mới giới thiệu một số cải tiến cho giao diện người dùng, tối ưu hóa quá trình điều hướng. Người dùng bây giờ có thể tận hưởng trải nghiệm trực quan hơn, với chức năng được cải thiện và thời gian phản hồi nhanh hơn.*

Analysis: In this example, the translation into Vietnamese preserves the original meaning without losing important information. The translation not only focuses on conveying the meaning but also uses language and sentence structures appropriate to the target language. Specifically, the word "streamlining" is translated as "tối ưu hóa" maintaining the idea of making the process more efficient. The word "intuitive" is translated as "trực quan" accurately expressing the user-friendly nature of the interface.

In this way, information about improvements, optimization, features, and response time is preserved, and Vietnamese readers can correctly understand the software's enhancements without misunderstanding.

- Accuracy in grammar and vocabulary: Use grammar and vocabulary appropriate for both languages. Avoid using overly complex language or inappropriate technical jargon. Maintain the fluidity of the text, avoiding the use of overly complicated wording or grammar structures when unnecessary.

Example:
The global economic recovery is gaining momentum, with increased consumer spending and a rebound in manufacturing activities. Central banks are closely monitoring inflationary pressures, and policymakers are considering stimulus measures to sustain the positive growth trajectory.
Facts and Analysis of Global Economy (Source: World Economic Outlook, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, www.oecd.org, 2021)

Translated into Vietnamese: *Sự phục hồi kinh tế toàn cầu đang có đà tăng trưởng, với chi tiêu tiêu dùng tăng và hoạt động sản xuất phục hồi. Các ngân hàng trung ương đang theo dõi chặt chẽ áp lực lạm phát và các nhà hoạch định chính sách đang xem xét các biện pháp kích thích để duy trì quỹ đạo tăng trưởng tích cực.*

Analysis: In this case, the translation has made an effort to preserve the original meaning of the text regarding the global economic situation. The phrase "gaining momentum" is translated as "đà tăng trưởng" accurately expressing the increase in momentum in the recovery process.

The pharse "**consumer spending**" is translated as "**chi tiêu tiêu dùng**" and "**rebound in manufacturing activities**" is translated as "**hoạt động sản xuất phục hồi**" maintaining the idea of the recovery of expenditure and production.

The pharse "inflationary pressures" is translated as "áp lực lạm phát" preserving the idea of closely monitoring inflationary pressures. Finally, the phrase "stimulus measures" is translated as "các biện pháp kích thích" accurately expressing the consideration of measures to support positive growth.

Overall, the translation successfully captures the nuances of the original text, ensuring that the key economic concepts are accurately conveyed in Vietnamese.

2.3. Translate from Vietnamese to English on the topic of "Economics"

Translation from Vietnamese to English is an important and necessary process for conveying information and facilitating communication between two different languages. Translating from Vietnamese to English helps establish connections and promote cultural, economic, and social exchanges among nations and multicultural communities. It serves as a bridge to convey meaning and knowledge from the source language to the target language accurately and comprehensively.

In the field of economics, translating from Vietnamese to English brings numerous benefits to individuals, businesses, and communities. Through the translation of documents, websites, and information related to the economic sector, individuals and businesses have opportunities for international business and trade. Translation is also an academic discipline, a crucial component of many economic sectors, aiming to cultivate a high-quality workforce to serve international economic exchanges and contribute to the national development-establishing connections and participating in the global economy.

Key considerations in Vietnamese to English translation on the "Economy" theme include:

- Clear understanding of the context: Awareness of the dynamics of the Vietnamese and global economies in the discussed contexts is essential for accurately conveying information.
- Use of contextual phrases: Employing phrases and idioms common in the target language makes the translation natural and easy to understand.
- Overcoming language ambiguities: During translation, there may be instances of ambiguity in expressing the meaning in the target language. Therefore, the translator needs to be sharp and accurate in selection to overcome barriers and convey the meaning as accurately as possible.
- Checking and error correction: This is an essential part of the process to ensure that the translation is free from spelling, grammar, and semantic errors.

Example: Năm 2023, kinh tế Việt Nam đã đi được 3/4 quãng đường trong bối cảnh kinh tế thế giới có triển vọng tiêu cực. Cụ thể là, tăng trưởng toàn cầu giảm tốc do chính sách thắt chặt tiền tệ, cuộc chiến ở Ukraine tiếp tục đè nặng lên các hoạt động kinh tế.

Kinh tế khu vực Eurozone đang rơi vào tình trạng trì trệ khi GDP quý II/2023 tăng 0,1%, thấp hơn mức dự báo 0,3%. Kinh tế Đức, nền kinh tế lớn nhất châu Âu, được ví như trái tim của cựu lục địa đang rơi vào tình trạng đình trệ, thiếu hụt động lực, có nguyên nhân từ các vấn đề về cấu trúc, điển hình là nỗ lực kiềm chế lạm phát thông qua chính sách liên tục tăng lãi suất dẫn đến kìm hãm mọi ngành sản xuất. Giá dầu thô tăng, lên mức trên ngưỡng 90USD/thùng gây áp lực gia tăng lạm phát trong những tháng tới.

(Source: Nguyễn Bích Lâm (2023), *Kinh tế Việt Nam vượt "gió ngược", tạo thế, lực và niềm tin để vững vàng tiến lên phía trước*, https://baochinhphu.vn/)

Translated into English
The Vietnamese economy had covered three-fourths of the journey amidst a global economic outlook showing negative prospects. Specifically, global growth is slowing down due to tightened monetary policies, and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine continues to weigh on economic activities.

The Eurozone economy is falling into stagnation as GDP in the second quarter of 2023 increased by 0.1%, lower than the forecast of 0.3%. Germany, the largest economy in Europe, is likened to the heart of the continent and is currently experiencing stagnation, lacking momentum. This is attributed to structural issues, notably efforts to control inflation through a continuous policy of raising interest rates, resulting in the restraint of all sectors of production. Crude oil prices are on the rise, exceeding the $90 per barrel threshold, adding pressure to inflation in the coming months.

Analysis
Both texts are accurate in capturing the economic context and events described in the original text. The translated terms are rendered precisely, such as:

"Đình trệ" is accurately translated as "**stagnatio**n" to describe the economic situation of slowness and lack of momentum. The Vietnamese phrase "**đang rơi vào tình trạng trì trệ**" is appropriately translated to "**falling into stagnation**" in English.

+ Maintaining the term GDP without explanation demonstrates professionalism in economic language translation. The Vietnamese phrase "GDP quý II/ 2023 tăng 0,1%" is accurately translated to "GDP in the second quarter of 2023 increased by 0.1%" in English.

+ "**Tăng lãi suất**" is translated into "**raising interest rates**" to accurately describe the strategy of raising interest rates to control inflation. The Vietnamese phrase "**Chính sách liên tục tăng lãi suất**" is aptly translated to "**continuous policy of raising interest rates**" in English.

+ "Crude oil prices are on the rise" is translated into "Crude oil prices are on the rise" to accurately express the situation of rising crude oil prices.

The Vietnamese phrase "**Giá dầu thô tăng, lên mức trên ngưỡng 900USD/ thùng**" is precisely translated to "**crude oil prices are on the rise, exceeding the $90 per barrel threshold**" in English.

Both translations use accurate economic terms and reflect the economic context of the original text correctly. Precision and

equivalence in expressing economic concepts between the two languages have been preserved.

In summary, to ensure translation quality, a translator needs knowledge of language, culture, and the economic field of the text to be translated. After translation, thorough checking is necessary to detect and correct errors in grammar, spelling, and semantics.

3. Conclusion

The fundamental translation methods from English to Vietnamese and vice versa on the topic of "Economics" play a crucial role in developing and enhancing translation skills for learners and those interested in economic translation. Translating from English to Vietnamese on economic topics is a process that demands the translator's patience and diligence. To ensure the effectiveness of translating English into Vietnamese on the topic of "Economics", the translator must adhere to translation rules and meet requirements such as: a solid understanding of specialized knowledge, mastery of vocabulary, sentence structures, and grammar, knowledge of contemporary trends and culture, and careful review of the translated text upon completion. Translating from Vietnamese to English on the topic of "Economics" is essential for conveying information and facilitating communication between two different languages. This translation process not only connects but also promotes cultural and economic exchanges. To ensure quality in Vietnamese to English translation on "Economics" the translator needs to follow the process and remain faithful to the spirit of both the source and target texts.

The sample translation exercises from Vietnamese to English on "Economics" provide model data to help translators hone practical translation skills. These exercises expand the vocabulary in the economic domain in both Vietnamese and English, thereby enhancing the ability to express accurately and flexibly in the translation process. Simultaneously, through practice and mastery of grammar and sentence structures, learners build a solid foundation for translation skills.

4. Acknowledgement

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