

focus of this book will be verbs and verbal forms in relation to their requisite syntax and, secondarily, their role in and implications for establishing boundary conditions in the task of semantic disambiguation.

As with most bilingual dictionaries, the purpose of this book is for it to be used as a lexical aid in support of the activity of translation. This has been the guiding principle in the selection of entries and example sentences: demonstrating the use of the verb or verbal construction in context and specifically in “real world” usage.

In general, there are remarkable degrees of alignment between the Tibetan and English languages. The vast majority of Tibetan verbs and syntactic structures can be mapped directly to their English-language counterparts. Nonetheless, divergences between the expression of some concepts in both languages do occur.¹

Consequently, one can divide translation differences between two languages into two categories: translation divergences, in which the same information is conveyed in the source and target texts but the structures of the sentences are different, and translation mismatches, in which the information that is conveyed is different in the source and target languages. Focusing on syntax in this context, a sentence and its translation can diverge in a number of ways.²

Some examples of translation divergences between Tibetan and English are as follows. For example, some Tibetan verbs—such as དཀའ་—necessitate the promotion of an English predicate adjective (in this case, “difficult”). Indeed, many Tibetan verbs that express the qualities of their grammatical subjects are realized as predicate adjectives in English.

Another type of translation divergence commonly seen is structural, in which, for example, the verbal object in one language would be realized as a noun phrase but in the other as a prepositional phrase. For example, with the verb འཕྱིན་, the qualifier in Tibetan occurs in the second case (objective), but in English it would be realized as an adverbial phrase with a preposition:

རྒྱུ་མ་སྒྲོར་ཕུང་།

Throwing a robber out the door.

(Literally:) Throwing a robber to the door.

Likewise, a number of these divergences occur with delexicalized verbs. The construction X གྱི་དབང་དུ་བྱས་ or X གྱི་དབང་དུ་བྱུང་ is commonly seen. For example,

མཚན་ཉིད་དེ་རྒྱལ་མཛད་སྤེལ་དབང་དུ་བྱས།

These definitions are made from the viewpoint of the Sūtra school.