

REVIEW ARTICLE

RESEARCH ON THE QUALITY OF PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL TRANSLATORS

Yangxia Huo^{a*}, Shengchao Du^b^a Institute of International Sports Organizations, Beijing Sports University, Beijing 100084, China.^b Physical Education Teaching and Research Section, Guanggu Branch of the First Middle School Affiliate to Central China Normal University, WuHan 430064, China*Corresponding Author Email: 1324022108@qq.com

This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History:

Received 02 September 2020
Accepted 05 October 2020
Available online 16 October 2020

ABSTRACT

The high quality of professional translators in football is the fundamental guarantee of high-quality football translation. With the continuous improvement of China's overall national strength, football is playing an increasingly important role in diplomacy. But the quality of Chinese football translators varies widely. This article has mainly used the methods of documentary materials, comparative analysis to analyze the development status of professional translators in football, starting from the needs of society for football translators and combining with the quality requirements of football professional translators in Colleges and universities. By studying the quality of professional football translators, better training of football translation talents, and promoting the foreign exchange of Chinese football.

KEYWORDS

Football sport, Translators quality, Professional translation, Working experience, Opportunity, Requirement.

1. INTRODUCTION

Football is a popular sport in the world (Chen, 2020). In recent years, with the continuous improvement of people's living standards in our country, people have changed from the pursuit of material satisfaction to the pursuit of health and spiritual satisfaction. Football has become one of the sports in people's daily activities. The state attaches great importance to the development of football in China through the promulgation and implementation of various policy documents. The communication between Chinese football and other countries in the world is increasingly close, such as the Chinese Super League. In the development process of Chinese football going to the world, football translators have a long way to go. Based on the investigation of the current situation of translation talents of football major, this paper finds out the problems existing in football translation major and puts forward feasible suggestions. By improving the professional translation quality of football, we can promote the better development of football, and then improve China's international influence, so as to realize the goal of our country to a sports power as soon as possible.

2. THE BASIC QUALITIES OF PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATORS OF FOOTBALL

2.1 High level of professional knowledge

As the old saying goes, "if a worker wants to do a good job, he must first sharpen his tools." A solid foundation of sports English is the weapon that football translators rely on for their work. Profound sports knowledge and foreign language skills will make football translation more beautiful. In translation practice, it is often the wrong understanding of sports that affects the accuracy of translation. The understanding of football translation directly affects the quality of translation. Therefore, a solid foundation of sports English is very important to the professional

translation of football (Cheesman et al., 2017).

Xie Si and Wang Sa pointed out that the quality of Chinese sports translators is uneven, and the cultivation of sports translators needs to be strengthened (Xie and Wang, 2008). Li Zaihui and other scholars also pointed out that the quality of sports translators in China is worrying. At the same time, they give the specific countermeasures to solve the problems existing in the training of sports translators in China (Li and Yang, 2010). Li also cited the Chengdu Institute of Physical Education as an example, exploring the training mode of sports translation talents (Li, 2011). The attention of domestic scholars to the quality and training mechanism of sports translation talents provides some theoretical support for the training of sports translation talents.

As a football translator, in addition to the basic sports English terminology, solid English proficiency is also an important factor in the workplace. Besides translation, we also need to carry out daily communication. If we can better communicate with the players, we can get twice the result with half the effort on the sports field, which can not only improve the efficiency of translators, but also establish a good international image.

2.2 High requirements for professional translation of football

Translators of soccer and sports are the two fields that combine sports and foreign languages. Their talents must include strong professional knowledge of foreign languages and soccer, which will play an important role in the success of international sports events. According to the relevant research, professional translators of football feel great pressure. Their pressure mainly comes from the importance of the event (Peng, 2013). In China, there must be international sports events in which foreign athletes, foreign coaches and foreign officials participate. The translation content involved by translators will directly affect the normal and friendly progress of the events. Poor or improper translation will cause unnecessary misunderstanding and contradictions, which will cast a

Quick Response Code



Access this article online

Website:
www.mysj.com.my

DOI:
[10.26480/msj.01.2020.12.14](http://doi.org/10.26480/msj.01.2020.12.14)

shadow on the organization and arrangement of the events.

3. CURRENT SITUATION OF PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATORS AND PRACTITIONERS OF FOOTBALL

The level of foreign language translation of football major is not high; Football talents management system is not perfect; The English terms of football for translators are not standardized, which are the main factors restricting the level of football translation. On the other hand, lacking of experience of football translation practitioners, as well as the instability of labor relations have a negative impact on the development of football translation, which cannot be ignored. Lacking of sports foreign exchange activities not only affect the professional enthusiasm of translation practitioners, but also reflects the neglect of football sports resources by relevant departments.

3.1 There are few full-time translators for football

From the perspective of the current market employment situation, the translators are basically part-time workers. On the one hand, they are also related to the holding of large-scale international sports events, so the social demand for professional football translators is limited. On the other hand, according to the survey, the work pressure of football players is high, and large-scale international sports events are often completed in a few days, which also makes football translators bear more physical and mental pressure. In the society, there are fewer full-time translators engaged in football translation, and there are fewer women.

3.2 Lack of working experience of football translators

The accumulation of translation experience depends on continuous and systematic translation practice. However, even for full-time sports foreign language translation practitioners, their translation work is difficult to ensure systematic and lasting, let alone non-professional translation. Most of the reasons are that: Firstly, due to the pressure of teaching, it is impossible for the teachers of physical education institutes to track the exchanges of various sports projects stably. Therefore, the translation work often falls on the teachers who do not have classes for the time being, while the students seldom have the opportunity to practice, let alone have the continuous and systematic work experience. Secondly, from the perspective of students themselves, there are more girls in the foreign languages department of Physical Education, and they have little willingness to do sports. Their physical quality differs greatly from the training objectives of the school, and they are difficult to bear the high intensity of work pressure (Kang and Kim, 2020). Thirdly, due to the limited resources of the school, it cannot provide sufficient internship opportunities for students to a large extent. Lack of practical experience and students' psychological will are the important reasons for the lack of working experience of football translators (China Today, 2008).

3.3 The management of football translators is not standardized

According to the investigation and analysis, many people mentioned the loopholes in the current football translation market. First, the market access mechanism is not standardized. Although the market share of football translation is expanding, it has not formed a matching market access mechanism and supervision mechanism, resulting in the lack of professional ethics in the sports foreign language translation market. The direct result is that the level of sports foreign language translation is worrying. Secondly, there are more part-time translators than full-time translators in football translation, which leads to the lack of unified and systematic management of football translators. Third, there is a lack of a sound and scientific football foreign language translation personnel training and certification system.

4. THE SOCIAL DEMAND FOR FOOTBALL TRANSLATION TALENTS

4.1 The professional requirements of football translation are high

Professional football translators play a vital role in the stadium, not only to convey the guidance of foreign coaches to the athletes, but also to interact with other team members. Therefore, translators of football are required to have high professional quality. Not only have a good Command of English, but also should be familiar with professional knowledge of football.

4.2 The particularity of football translation

Translation is an art, and it is based on the re-creation of a language. Nowadays, the society tends to be diversified, technical and informationalized. However, professional football translation is more special. The success or failure of a match depends largely on the translator's communication with foreign coaches and athletes.

Professional football translation is also different from the general document or conference translation, football translation requires real-time, accuracy. The level of the translator is often the key to winning or losing a football match (Prasetyo et al., 2019). Therefore, the translation of sports, especially football, should be strict and fully reflect its particularity.

5. INVESTIGATION AND ANALYSIS ON THE DEMAND OF TRANSLATION TALENTS IN LEAGUE CLUBS

Compared with the temporary large-scale international sports events, the number of translation talents is scarce and the overall level of translation is not high, so there are fewer translation problems in domestic professional league matches. Take domestic mature Football League as an example. Basically, there are foreign aid or foreign coaches, so each team will be equipped with full-time translators (Yang, 2005). Through the investigation, it is found that the translation talents of the league are not scarce, even saturated, and the competition for each post is fierce. The reasons are as follows:

5.1 Mature domestic professional football league

After years of development and precipitation, the domestic professional football league has formed a relatively complete industrial chain. The introduction of foreign players and coaches not only improves the level of professional league, but also increases the appreciation of the game. Therefore, the position of full-time translator is very stable. As long as there is a league, there will be foreign players and coaches; as long as there are foreign personnel involved, there will be full-time translators.

5.2 Professional football translation position has a more satisfactory salary and treatment

According to the previous investigation and analysis, the monthly salary of a full-time translator can exceed 8,000 yuan. If it is during the competition, there are other bonuses and benefits. In addition, the general sports event translator is also a sports fan, they can meet the favorite coaches and athletes in the stadium when they working, which can make them feel very satisfied. Salary and remuneration are also important reasons for attracting professional translators and interpreters.

5.3 The position is scarce and the full-time translation talented person is numerous

There are 16 teams in China Football League. Generally, a league team only needs 1-2 full-time translators. Therefore, nationwide, about 30 full-time translators can meet the needs of professional football league matches, and there are more than 100 translators graduated from sports schools or foreign language colleges every year. Therefore, the complete imbalance between supply and demand leads to the fierce competition of posts.

6. HOW TO IMPROVE PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATION QUALITY OF FOOTBALL

6.1 Training for vocational certificate courses

Sports translation has a high requirement on talents, but there is no fixed entry threshold. To improve its professionalism and accuracy, it should be like the basic requirements of listening, speaking, reading and writing of CET-4 and CET-6, as well as professional training and assessment, and establish sports translation level certificates. According to the mastery degree of the sports project, the sports translation certificate of the project is specially set up, which is connected with the sports clubs and international large-scale sports events, so as to give the certificate holders certain exercise opportunities. In addition to the above English translation level requirements, professional football translators should also master the special knowledge of football, and carry out professional certificate course training for football translators (Liu, 2007).

6.2 In depth teaching of professional terms

Football sports foreign language translation talents are not the same as foreign language talents, and their training cannot be attached to foreign language teaching alone. Likewise, football sports translation should be established as an independent major combining translation skills training and sports knowledge output, namely Sports Foreign language translation. Football foreign language translation emphasizes logic in translation thinking, contains a large number of professional terms in professional level, and sports foreign language translation is more open and accurate in market positioning.

Football foreign language translators should have the qualities of knowledge integration, ability combination, comprehensive quality and so on. The training objectives should be based on specialization and application, in which specialization emphasizes the quality of the training of translation talents, while application pays more attention to the application of applied knowledge and technology. The former focuses on translation ability, while the latter focuses on sports professional knowledge.

In order to impart football professional terms, the English major in sports colleges is the key to cultivate students. In sports colleges, teachers should teach in small classes according to the project, focusing on cultivating students who are interested in sports and have good English foundation, and give more guidance to make them more professional. The school implements the tutor responsibility system to ensure that students master.

6.3 Broaden students' learning and practice channels

We should strengthen the fund investment and policy guidance for foreign language majors based on sports colleges and universities. In the professional construction, we insist on the training mode of "sports + foreign language" (Cloonan and Fingeret, 2020). We should strengthen the cooperation with football major, major sports clubs, integrate advantageous resources, and strengthen the input of sports professional knowledge on the basis of improving students' language ability. Universities should provide more internship opportunities for students (Chen and Yang, 2019). Students can participate in large-scale international sports events in the form of volunteers, accumulating experience, receiving foreign guests, and constantly improve their enthusiasm and professional knowledge (Tian and Liu, 2017). So as to serve football translation.

In addition, sports foreign language translation teaching needs to have a clear market orientation and professional positioning, provide local sports characteristics, the government should strengthen the development of sports resources, and as a platform to strengthen cooperation with the external market, increase students' practice opportunities, combine more theory and practice, cultivate compound talents, strengthen international cooperation, and establish sports foreign language translators Resource pool.

7. CONCLUSION

Football is one of the most popular sports in the world, which international nature is self-evident. In order to promote Chinese football to the world, football translators shoulder the unshrinkable responsibility. Through the analysis of the development status of professional football translators, the author found that the professional level of football professional translators in China is not high; the results show that there is a gap in expectations. Translator's ability needs to be further improved; the physical and psychological quality of football translators is relatively low; football translators are lack of work experience. Based on this, the following suggestions are put forward: strive to improve the professionalism of football translation practitioners, set up a football qualification level certificate, and the translator works with a certificate; establish a complete market access system for football translation practitioners, set a certain wage standard, and standardize talent

management; football translation pays attention to sports professional knowledge learning, strengthen physical exercise, and improve the translator's body. In order to provide students with more translation experience of football sports, colleges and universities should strengthen the contact with clubs.

REFERENCES

- Cheesman, T., Flanagan, K., Thiel, S., Rybicki, J., Laramée, R.S., Hope, J., Roos, A., 2017. Multi-Retranslation corpora: Visibility, variation, value, and virtue. *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, 32 (4), Pp. 739-760. <https://doi.org/10.1093/lc/fqw027>
- Chen, F., 2020. Discussion on the Practice of Fun Teaching in Football Sports Teaching, 6(1).
- Chen, K.H.Y., Yang, X.Y., 2019. A study on the training of PE English translators under the background of winter Olympics. *Sports science and technology*, 40 (06), Pp. 63-64.
- China Today, 2008. Opportunity Knocks for Chinese Sports Translators. *China Today*, (01), Pp. 36-37.
- Cloonan, M., Fingeret, A.L., 2020. Developing teaching materials for learners in Surger, 167 (4), Pp. 689-692.
- Kang, J.H., and Kim, K.H., 2020. Collaborative translation: an instrument for commercial success or neutralizing a feminist message? *Perspectives: Studies in Translatology*, 28 (4), Pp. 487-503. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0907676X.2019.1609534>
- Li, Z.H., 2011. A Study on the training mode of sports translators - A case study of Chengdu Institute of Physical Education. *Journal of Chengdu institute of physical education*, (7), Pp. 87-90.
- Li, Z.H., Yang, F.J., 2010. Problems and countermeasures in the training of sports translation talents in China. *Journal of Chengdu institute of physical education*, (4), Pp. 88-94.
- Liu, J.Y., 2007. The translation and interpretation professional qualification level certification examination and interpretation teaching reform in China. *Frontier newspapers*.
- Peng, Y.J., 2013. A survey on the status quo of sports foreign language translators in Henan province. *Shaolin Sports Press*.
- Prasetyo, A.B., Doewes, M., Purnama, S.K., 2019. Development of football sports agility model in special preparation stage, 9 (6), Pp. 130-136.
- Tian, X.L., Liu, C., 2017. Research on the comprehensive model of talent cultivation based on the demand of sports industry in China. *Journal of Military Sports*, 36 (01), Pp. 82-86.
- Xie, S., Wang, S., 2008. Current situation of sports publicity and translation in China. *Journal of Adult Physical Education*, (3), Pp. 15-17.
- Yang, H., 2005. Investigation on the current situation of Sports English translation in Chinese professional men's Basketball clubs and research on countermeasures for improvement. *Journal of Beijing Sport University*.

