

Key Principles of Translation

1. Read each original sentence and compare translations A and B. Decide which translation is more accurate and natural in Latvian. Then read the explanation and think about what makes one version more effective.

1. **She was deeply disappointed by the results.**

- A. Rezultāti viņai sagādāja lielu vilšanos.
B. Viņa bija dziļi vilusies ar rezultātiem.

Better translation: _____

(The better translation sounds natural in Latvian and communicates the original meaning clearly. The other version follows the English structure too closely and uses a less natural grammatical construction.)

2. **There has been a significant increase in the number of young people studying abroad.**

- A. Ir bijis nozīmīgs palielinājums jauno cilvēku skaitā, kas studē ārzemēs.
B. Ievērojami pieaudzis to jauniešu skaits, kuri studē ārzemēs.

Better translation: _____

(The better translation restructures the sentence according to natural Latvian usage. A word-for-word translation of the English structure "there has been an increase" sounds unnecessarily heavy and less idiomatic in Latvian.)

3. **The company is facing serious financial difficulties.**

- A. Uzņēmums saskaras ar nopietnām finansālām grūtībām.
B. Kompānija skatās seja nopietnām finanšu grūtībām.

Better translation: _____

(The better translation uses a natural Latvian equivalent of the expression "to face difficulties". The other version translates the English expression too literally, creating wording that is understandable but not idiomatic in Latvian.)

4. **He refused to comment on the situation.**

- A. Viņš atteicās situāciju komentēt.
B. Viņš atteicās dot komentāru uz situāciju.

Better translation: _____

(The better translation is concise and natural. The other version copies the English wording and sentence structure more directly, resulting in an expression that sounds less typical in Latvian.)

5. **The book raises important questions about modern society.**

- A. Grāmata aktualizē būtiskus jautājumus par mūsdienu sabiedrību.
B. Grāmata paceļ svarīgus jautājumus par moderno sabiedrību.

Better translation: _____

(The better translation communicates the intended meaning rather than translating individual words literally. Expressions such as "raise questions" need to be adapted to normal Latvian usage. The choice of wording for "modern society" should also sound natural in the context.)

6. **Many people struggle to maintain a healthy work-life balance.**

- A. Daudzi cilvēki cīnās uzturēt veselīgu darba-dzīves balansu.
B. Daudziem cilvēkiem ir grūti saglabāt veselīgu līdzsvaru starp darbu un privāto dzīvi.

Better translation: _____

(The better translation focuses on the meaning of the sentence rather than the literal meanings of individual words. Here, "struggle" expresses "difficulty" rather than "physical struggle", and the phrase "work-life balance" should be rendered in a way that sounds natural in Latvian.)

7. **The article provides an interesting insight into teenagers' use of social media.**

- A. Raksts sniedz interesantu ieskatu pusaudžu sociālo mediju lietošanas paradumos.
B. Raksts nodrošina interesantu ieskatu iekšā pusaudžu sociālo mediju lietošanā.

Better translation: _____

(The better translation uses vocabulary and sentence structure that are natural in Latvian. It communicates the meaning of expressions such as "provides an insight into" without copying their English structure word for word.)

8. **Despite the criticism, the project was considered a success.**

- A. Neskatoties uz kritiku, projekts tika uzskatīts par veiksmīgu.
B. Par spīti kritikai, projektu kopumā uzskatīja par veiksmīgu.

Better translation: _____

(Both translations communicate the main idea, but one sounds more natural in Latvian. The less natural version follows the English passive structure more closely, while Latvian often allows a more concise impersonal construction.)

9. **The new policy is expected to have a positive effect on employment.**

- A. Sagaidāms, ka jaunā politika pozitīvi ietekmēs nodarbinātību.
B. Tiek sagaidīts, ka jaunajai politikai būs pozitīvs efekts uz nodarbinātību.

Better translation: _____

(Both versions are understandable and grammatically possible. However, the better translation uses a more natural Latvian sentence structure and avoids unnecessary dependence on English expressions.)

10. **The school introduced the programme to encourage students to take a more active role in their learning.**

- A. Skola ieviesa programmu, lai mudinātu skolēnus aktīvāk iesaistīties mācību procesā.
B. Skola ieviesa programmu, lai iedrošinātu skolēnus ieņemt aktīvāku lomu savā mācīšanās procesā.

Better translation: _____

(The better translation expresses the idea in a more natural and idiomatic way. The other version follows the English phrases too closely, even though its meaning is still understandable.)

2. Read the original sentence and its Latvian translation. The translation contains one main problem. Choose the correct problem: A or B.

1. **She stood by the window, listening to the rain tapping softly against the glass.**

Viņa stāvēja pie loga, klausoties, kā lietus klusi pieskaras pret stiklu.

What is the main problem? _____

- A. The translation changes the meaning of the sentence.
B. The verb used for the sound of the rain is too literal and does not sound fully natural in Latvian.

2. **For a moment, he thought he had seen someone moving in the shadows.**

Uz brīdi viņš domāja, ka bija redzējis kādu kustoties ēnās.

What is the main problem? _____

- A. The tense structure has been copied too directly from English and sounds unnatural in Latvian.
B. The phrase "for a moment" has been translated too freely.

3. **Her voice was barely more than a whisper.**

Viņas balss bija gandrīz vairāk nekā čuksts.

What is the main problem? _____

- A. The word "whisper" should not be translated as "čuksts".
B. The meaning of "barely more than" has been misunderstood.

4. **He forced a smile, although he felt anything but calm.**

Viņš piespieda smaidu, lai gan jutās pilnīgi mierīgs.

What is the main problem? _____

- A. The phrase "anything but calm" has been translated with the opposite meaning.
B. The translation should have used a different sentence structure to precisely convey the meaning.

5. **The old house seemed to hold its breath as the storm approached.**

Vecā māja, šķiet, turēja savu elpu, kamēr tuvojās vētra.

What is the main problem? _____

- A. The figurative expression has been translated too literally and sounds unnatural.
B. The translation changes the setting of the scene and contains an unnecessary repetition.

6. **She gave him a cold look and turned away without saying a word.**

Viņa iedeva viņam aukstu skatienu un novērsās, nepasakot ne vārda.

What is the main problem? _____

- A. The expression "gave him a cold look" has been translated too literally.
B. The translations does not seem to have a logical sentence structure in Latvian.

7. **By the time he reached the station, the last train had already left.**

Līdz tam laikam, kad viņš sasniedza staciju, pēdējais vilciens jau bija aizgājis.

What is the main problem? _____

- A. The translation is missing the word "already".
B. Several phrases follow English usage too closely and sound unnatural.

8. **A sudden wave of fear swept over her when she heard the door creak open.**

Pēkšņs baiļu vilnis pārslaucīja viņai pāri, kad viņa dzirdēja durvis čīkstot vaļā.

What is the main problem? _____

- A. The translation omits some important information from the original text.
B. The translation follows the English metaphor and sentence structure too closely.