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THE MAIN MYTHOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES USED IN THE PROCESS OF TEACHING ORAL TRANSLATION

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ABOUT ARTICLE

Abstract: Mythology refers to a collection of traditional stories, beliefs, and narratives that are typically rooted in a specific culture, religion, or society. These stories often involve gods, supernatural beings, heroes, and legendary events and are used to explain the origins of the world, natural phenomena, human behavior, and societal customs. Mythologies can vary significantly from one culture or civilization to another and are an integral part of the cultural heritage and identity of a group of people. Origin Stories: Myths often contain creation stories that explain how the world, humanity, or specific aspects of life came into existence. These stories may involve divine beings or cosmic events.

INTRODUCTION

Mythologies frequently feature gods, goddesses, spirits, and other supernatural entities that play significant roles in the stories. These beings often possess extraordinary powers and abilities. Many myths include heroic figures who undertake quests, face challenges, and perform extraordinary feats. These heroes often embody the values and virtues of the culture. Myths are rich in symbolism and

allegorical elements. They use metaphors and symbols to convey deeper meanings, morals, and cultural messages.

Myths are central to the identity and worldview of a culture or society. They provide a framework for understanding the world, human nature, and the cosmos. Myths may also influence religious beliefs and rituals. In many cases, myths were originally passed down orally from one generation to another. They were later recorded in written form but retain elements of oral storytelling, including poetic language and repetition. Examples of well-known mythologies include Greek mythology, Norse mythology, Egyptian mythology, Hindu mythology, and many others. These mythologies have had a profound impact on art, literature, religion, and philosophy throughout history.

It's important to note that while myths are often associated with ancient cultures, they continue to be relevant in contemporary society. Modern myths and legends, such as urban legends and popular folklore, also play a role in shaping cultural narratives and beliefs. The use of mythological principles in the process of teaching oral translation can add depth and cultural context to language learning. Mythological stories and themes often contain rich symbolism and cultural nuances that can aid in comprehension and interpretation. Here are some main mythological principles and how they can be integrated into the teaching of oral translation:

Archetypal Characters and Symbols:

Principle: Mythological stories often feature archetypal characters and symbols that represent universal human experiences and emotions.

Teaching Application: Encourage students to identify and analyze archetypal characters and symbols in mythological texts. This can help them understand and convey deeper meanings in oral translations.

Hero's Journey:

Principle: Many myths follow the hero's journey, a narrative structure involving a hero's quest, challenges, and transformation.

Teaching Application: Explore the hero's journey in mythological stories and discuss how it parallels the structure of narratives in the target language. Encourage students to translate these narratives with attention to the hero's journey elements.

Mythological Motifs and Themes:

Principle: Myths often revolve around recurring motifs and themes, such as creation, transformation, and the battle of good vs. evil.

Teaching Application: Use these motifs and themes to explore cultural differences in storytelling. Have students translate myths that showcase these themes, highlighting variations in how they are expressed in different languages.

Mythological Allusions and References:

Principle: Mythological references are common in literature and conversation. Understanding them can enrich language comprehension.

Teaching Application: Teach students about common mythological references in the target culture and how they are used in language. Challenge them to translate texts that include these references accurately.

Cultural Context and Beliefs:

Principle: Myths reflect the cultural context and beliefs of a society, offering insights into its history, values, and worldview.

Teaching Application: Use mythological stories to explore cultural context in language learning. Discuss how cultural beliefs and values are expressed in myths and how they can impact translation choices.

Mythological Figurative Language:

Principle: Myths often use figurative language, metaphors, and symbolism that may not have direct equivalents in other languages.

Teaching Application: Challenge students to translate mythological figurative language effectively. Discuss the use of metaphors and symbols and how to convey their intended meaning in the target language.

Comparative Mythology:

Principle: Comparative mythology involves studying similar myths and legends across different cultures.

Teaching Application: Engage students in comparative mythology to explore linguistic and cultural connections. Translate myths from different cultures and languages to identify common themes and differences.

By incorporating mythological principles into the teaching of oral translation, educators can help students not only improve their language skills but also gain a deeper understanding of the cultural and symbolic aspects of the languages they are learning. This approach can make language learning more engaging and culturally enriching.

Activity: Mythological Storytelling and Translation

Objective: To enhance students' oral translation skills while exploring the cultural and symbolic aspects of mythological stories.

Materials Needed:

Mythological stories or legends from the target culture or various cultures.

Translations of these stories into the students' native language.

A recording device (if available).

Instructions:

Select Mythological Stories: Choose mythological stories or legends from the target culture or multiple cultures. Ensure that you have translations of these stories in the students' native language.

Story Analysis: In the classroom, discuss the key elements of the selected mythological stories. Explore the archetypal characters, symbols, motifs, and cultural themes present in these stories. Encourage students to ask questions and share their insights about the stories.

Oral Translation Practice:

Assign each student or pair of students a mythological story from the target culture. Provide them with both the original text in the target language and a translation in their native language.

Instruct the students to orally translate the mythological story from the target language to their native language. They should focus not only on the literal translation of words but also on conveying the

cultural and symbolic elements of the story. Emphasize the importance of storytelling techniques, including tone, pacing, and expression, to capture the essence of the myth.

Peer Presentation: Have each student or pair of students present their oral translation of the mythological story to the class. Encourage them to incorporate elements of storytelling to engage their peers.

Discussion and Feedback: After each presentation, facilitate a class discussion on the translation choices made by the presenting students. Discuss how they conveyed the cultural and symbolic aspects of the story. Encourage feedback and suggestions from classmates.

Comparative Analysis: Explore the variations in how different students translated similar mythological themes and elements. Discuss how cultural backgrounds and personal interpretations may influence translation choices.

Recording (Optional): If possible, record the students' oral translations and discussions for later review. This allows students to reflect on their presentation skills and language choices.

Reflective Writing: As a follow-up assignment, ask students to write reflective essays or reports about the experience of translating and presenting mythological stories. Encourage them to discuss what they learned about language, culture, and the art of storytelling.

This activity not only improves students' oral translation skills but also deepens their cultural understanding and appreciation of mythological storytelling. It encourages critical thinking about the cultural and symbolic nuances within language and literature.

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