

Rhyme and Cultural Context in Proverbs: for Better Translation

Moon, Jae-Ik
(Kangnam University)

1. Introduction

Martin Manser said, “A proverb is a saying, usually short, that expresses a general truth about life. Proverbs give advice, make an observation, or present a teaching in a succinct and memorable way.” That seems to be the most explainable definition of a proverb. This paper regarding rhyme and cultural context in proverbs for better translation aims at playing a role of introduction of proverbs in collegiate translation classes.

Studying English in classrooms is sometimes boring, but should we turn it a little different way to learn proverbs will be fun for both learners and teachers. It took about three years for me to have collected more than seven thousand proverbs, cliches, and slangs among which proverbs are now

enumerated as follows (Moon Jae-Ik. 2011).

1.1 Proverbs and Cultural Understanding

To learn American and English proverbs is to delve into the details and thrilling subtleties of native English linguistic cultural context. Proverbs can profoundly express situations that we Koreans, learning English as a foreign language, hardly grasp because of our own linguistic patterns, habits and classroom-based English education.

Nothing defines a culture as distinctly as its language, and the element of the language that best encapsulates a society's values and beliefs is its proverbs. Most proverbs, long established, are short, pithy sayings expressing traditionally-held truths. They are usually metaphorical and, for memorability, often rhyme. Without understanding these matters translation and interpretation can not be done hitting the nail on the head because they do not have cultural depth.

In advanced translation, if a message uses cliches, proverbs, slang, dialect, or maxims you must convert it into normal standard English. When you hear, the "grapes of wrath have increased among the lower-middle classes barely keeping their heads above water (Moon, J. 2011)," you restate it, "Anger has increased among the lower-middle classes struggling financially (Moon, J. 2011)."

Understanding Proverbs are also easy and fun ways to decipher differences between Korean and English-speaking culture through references to practices, values, beliefs, and customs since the time the proverbs were coined. From the viewpoint of comparative philology, proverbs form an anthology of English native expressions which can help readers understand cultural differences.

For example, if a speaker says, "Another day, another dollar!" and you are unaware of the cultural context, you then cannot truly interpret the phrase. You perceive it as literal, and communication fails. The message's meaning is,

“Everything is ordinary, with the same routine as usual. Nothing has changed and everything remains the same (Moon, J. 2011).”

1.2 Synonyms for Proverbs

Proverbs are well-known phrases or sentences that express long-true wise thoughts. Several synonyms for the word ‘proverb’ occur. Although these synonyms are often considered proverbs, they have slight differences.

First, there are ‘sayings’ which mean popular expressions. Second, there are ‘adages’, well-known sayings long in use, often written as metaphors. Third, there are ‘epigrams’, short, witty statements often in verse. Epigrams may contain irony. Fourth, there are maxims, rules about how people should behave.

1.3 Proverbs and clichés

Many English proverbs, in use for centuries, remain commonplace. Some proverbs have become overused and clichéd. This means they have been exhausted and turned annoying or boring. Some have even changed or lost their original meanings.

For an example there is a proverb. ‘Enough is enough’. That means,

“That is enough, and there should be no more; Stop!
e.g., Stop asking for money! Enough is enough!
I’ve heard all the complaining from you I can take. Enough is enough!”
(McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs, 2002)

This old proverb has been used too frequent and become worn out and shortened into the cliché ‘Enough’, and even a movie title. Enough is a 2002 American thriller film directed by Michael Apted. The movie is based on the 1998 novel Black and Blue by Anna Quindlen, a New York Times bestseller. It stars Jennifer Lopez as Slim, an abused wife who learns to fight back([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enough_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enough_(film))). People often quote only a

fraction of a proverb to evoke its entirety, such as “All is fair” instead of “All is fair in love and war,” and “A rolling stone” in “A rolling stone gathers no moss.” They show that language is evolving in the process of that these proverbs have become clichés.

When we, Koreans, hearing the cliché ‘Enough’ we do not feel bored hearing it at all. However it is natural that clichés have adjectives(modifiers) in English dictionaries like ‘not interesting, not new, dull, worn-out and boring’ to Westerners, while we, Koreans, find them ‘interesting, new, novel, noteworthy, curious’, because we are not Westerners. We have to learn them as deliberately as Westerners disregard and underestimate them from overuse.

2. Structure of Proverbs

Proverbs have superficial and thoughtful characteristics. The former are considered in this chapter, and the latter in chapter three.

2.1 The Two Sides of Proverbs

Many proverbs hide a wealth of information and meaning beneath their surface, like Chinese poems, and we may need several sentences to explain each proverb properly. These are proverbs’ inner characteristics. Proverbs have long existed and will persist far into the future, because they have been, and will be, widely loved. There are reasons why they are so beloved for such a long time.

Their deep, connotative meanings hit the spot of cultural feeling and sentimentality, with catchy rhymes or lyrical phrases that are easy, comforting, and pleasant to sing. They have thus evolved into memorable, rhythmic songs and poems with universal appeal. Because of these two features, proverbs survive time and tide even as values change.

2.2 Rhymes

Rhymes are repeated syllables in words of proverbs, a little different from equivalent poetry or verses. Good classics in the English language, like poems, bibles, and verses have good combinations and harmonies of external features such as, rhyme, foot (a unit of division of a line of poetry containing one strong beat and one or two weaker ones), meter(The measured arrangement of words in poetry, as by accentual rhythm, syllabic quantity, or the number of syllables in a line) and locution (manner or style of speech or expression). Lessons and wisdom are easily acquired through explanations of proverbs, while their external features are not so easily mastered in their complexity. As to the talent of creating proverbs, here is a good one; ‘Poets are born, not made.’

“Poets, like all true artists, possess talent that cannot be taught(The American Heritage New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, 2005).”

Analyzing all these external details is beyond the scope of this paper, but structures in proverbs may be briefly handled as follows. To become fluent English speakers, we, Koreans, ought to learn rhyme, rhythm, and locution as best we can.

2.2.1 Alliteration or Beginning Rhyme

The first type of rhyme considered is alliteration located at the head of each word in a proverb.

Example 1) Another day, another dollar(ADAD)

“Everything is ordinary, the same routine. Nothing has changed and everything remains the same.

Ron: Hey, what's up?

Carol: Not much; another day another dollar.

Ron: Cool, wanna go to get some beer?

Carol: Sure, why not.(<http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Another+day+another+dollar>)”

Example 2) Garbage in, garbage out (GIGO)

“A computer can do only what it is programmed to do and is only as good as the data it receives and the instructions given. If there is a logical error in the software or incorrect data is entered, the result will probably be either a wrong answer or a system crash.(The American Heritage New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, 2005)”

Example 3) What you see is what you get (WYSIWYG)

“This shows nothing is hidden.(The Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus)”

2.2.2 Internal Rhyme

The second type is the internal rhymes located in the middle of a proverb. Henceforth, all proverb examples come from The Facts on File Dictionary of Proverbs and The American Heritage® New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, Third Edition because the two dictionaries are better explaining the first usage of each proverb in text than any other ones.

Example 1) Dead men tell no tales.

Dead people will not betray any secrets.

Example 2) Go hunting where the ducks are.

Seek opportunities or results in situations or places where they are most likely to be found.

Example 3) Shrouds have no pockets.

You cannot take any material goods with you when you die.

2.2.3 End Rhyme

End rhymes are the most common rhymes in English poetry relative to beginning and internal rhymes. In poetry, end rhymes occur in the last syllables of verses, as in the first stanza of Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening":

Whose woods these are I think I know,
His house is in the village, though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

However, in proverbs, rhymes are found in the last syllable of each word in a sentence.

Example 1) Gambling is getting nothing for something.
Gambling is not a wise use of money, as you are likely to receive no return whatsoever for your financial outlay.

Example 2) Common fame is seldom to blame.
Rumors are rarely without substance, and if unpleasant things are said of somebody, then that person has probably done something to deserve them.

Example 3) He that goes a-borrowing, goes a-sorrowing.
Borrowing inevitably leads to trouble, as when you find yourself unable to repay; also used to imply that those who try to borrow will be disappointed.

2.2.4 Assonance and Consonance

There are two distinctive rhymes divided by phonetic features of consonant or vowel syllables. Assonance is a literary device using repeated vowel sounds.

Consonance is the repetition of consonant sounds, often at the beginning of words. Tongue twisters are the most obvious use of consonance, as in “Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.”

1) Assonance example: Deeds, not words.

What a person does is more important than -- and may be quite different from -- what he or she says.

2) Consonance example: Can't live with 'em, can't live without 'em.

Some alternatives are equally impossible (usually applied to a person's male or female partner).

2.2.5 Masculine Rhyme, Feminine Rhyme, and Triple Rhyme

One syllable rhymes are called masculine. Two syllable rhymes are deemed feminine. Three syllable rhymes are termed triple rhymes(Moon J. 2011).

1) Masculine rhyme example: Delays are dangerous.

Hesitation or procrastination may lead to trouble or disaster.

2) Feminine rhyme example: Bear and forbear.

Patience, tolerance, endurance and forgiveness are valued in all walks of life.

3) Triple rhyme example i) Finders keepers, losers weepers.

If something you lose is found by another, you have no right to reclaim it and must bear your loss as best you can.

ii) Haste makes waste.

Haste and hurry risk damage and mistakes that subsequently have to be put right, resulting in lost time, money and materials.

iii) Grace will last, beauty will blast.

Good character outlives superficial physical attractiveness.

iv) Many a pickle makes a mickle.

Every little bit helps. Drops of water and grains of sand make a mighty ocean and a pleasant land. Many little bits make a mickle.

2.3 Juxtaposition

Juxtaposition means to deliberately place two contrasting things side by side to highlight differences. For example, if a waiter served a whole fish and a scoop of chocolate ice cream on the same plate, your surprise might be caused by the juxtaposition, the side-by-side contrast, of the two foods.

Example 1) All things are easy to industry, all things difficult to sloth.
Anything can be achieved by those prepared to work hard.
Sloth makes all things difficult, while industry makes all things easy.

Example 2) Feed a cold and starve a fever.
You should eat well when you have a cold but fast when you have a fever.

Example 3) The best defense is a good offense.
You are more likely to win if you take the initiative to attack rather than prepare to defend yourself; used in sports, politics, business and the like.

Example 4) Better to be an old man's darling than a young man's slave.
It's better to marry an older man who cherishes you than a younger one who mistreats you.

Example 5) A secret is either too good to keep or too bad not to tell.
It is hard to keep any secret.

Example 6) Penny wise and pound foolish.
Being too thrifty or frugal with small expenses may incur a much larger expense; also used of those who combine parsimony with extravagance.

2.4 Inversion

Inversion is reversing the normal order of words in a sentence, especially when the verb comes before the subject. The grammar of proverbs is not always typical of the spoken language. Elements shift to achieve rhyme or focus, which is why proverbs need inversion. Inversion in English expression often occurs in questions, negatives, various adverbial conjunctions, etc. to highlight meaning. Inversions may occur unexpectedly as shown:

Example 1) To the victor go the spoils (The spoils go to the victor)'.
The winner of a contest or battle gets everything that goes with victory.

Example 2) Be the day weary or be the day long, at last it ringeth to evening song (No matter how tiring or stressful the day is it has the end).

No matter how tiring or stressful your day is, you can console yourself with the fact that it will eventually be over; also used more generally to recommend perseverance or endurance in a trying situation.

Example 3) As good be an addled egg as an idle bird (An idle bird is as good as an addled egg).

Somebody who tries and fails has achieved no less than somebody who does nothing at all; used to reprimand idleness or inaction.

Example 4) Away goes the devil when he finds the door shut against him (The devil goes away when he finds the door shut against him).

Evil will never triumph if all temptations are rejected.

2.5 Middle English in Proverbs

Under my investigation no traces of Old English(spoken between AD 450 and 1150) remain in proverbs. However, Middle English(spoken between AD 1100 and 1500) is still used in many proverbs to express authority, universality, and weight of meaning. That can distress non-native speakers, but

if the mountain won't come to Muhammad then Muhammad must go to the mountain. For us, modern English is already not easy, adding to which we Koreans must learn Middle English locution in order to acquire old proverbs.

Since many proverbs are both poetic and traditional, they are often passed down in fixed forms. Though spoken language changes, proverbs may remain in archaic forms. In English, for example, "betwixt" is hardly ever used, yet a form of it is still heard in the proverb, "There is many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip." This old conservative form preserves the meter and rhyme from the time it was coined.

2.5.1 The second personal pronouns

While some proverbs retain confusing and irritating forms of archaic English, review the following frequently:

- Thou = You: 'You' is the subject of the sentence.
- Thee = You: 'You' is the object of the sentence.
- Thy = Your: Possessive form of 'you'.
- Thine = Yours: Possessive pronoun form of 'you'.
- Ye = You: Plural form of 'you' when addressing a group of people.

2.5.2 The second person verb: verb root +(e)st/t

hast(have), wilt(will), canst(can), shalt(sall), wast(was), hadst(had), wouldst (would), wentest(went/go), doth(does), etc.

2.5.3 The third person verb: verb root + (e)th

doth(does), hath(has), bringeth(brings), wouldest(would), ringeth(rings), saith (says), doth(does) etc.

Example 1) The north wind doth blow and we shall have snow.
Winds that blow from the north often bring cold weather.

Example 2) There's nowt so queer as folk. *nowt = nothing
People are uniquely unpredictable.

Example 3) Take no quarelle(quarrel), thynk(think) mekyl(much) and say
nought(not).
Think before you speak. Never express an opinion, make a remark, or
answer a question without considering its possible effects.

2.6 Proverbs with Rhymes and Rhythms

Rhymes are rhythms of repeated syllables in a sentence. Articulation constitutes the adjustments and movements of speech organs involved in pronouncing a particular sound. As syllables are repeated, the same parts of the speech organs work, easing articulation so listeners can anticipate what comes next.

Rhymes also show how the English language works, and help us notice and practice repeated sounds within words. English speakers play with rhymes and rhythms, repeating them in animated tones. Rhymes, just like the contents of proverbs, draw a mental picture, expanding the imagination.

1) Call a spade a spade.

To call something by its right name; to speak frankly about something, even if unpleasant. To tell the unpleasant truth.

2) Do as I say, not as I do.

Doing what somebody tells or advises rather than what he or she actually does.

3) Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you.

Do not anticipate future problems -- wait until something troublesome needs to be dealt with before taking any action.

4) Never say never (again).

Nothing is impossible: anything can happen. Do not ever say that you will not ever do something.

5) Every bullet has its billet.

In a life-threatening situation, destiny decides who dies and who survives.

6) Horses for courses.

People have different strengths and talents, and each person should be assigned to the task or job best suited to that individual.

7) No moon, no man.

According to popular superstition, a child born at the time of the new moon -- that is, when no moon is visible in the sky -- will not survive to adulthood.

8) One of these days is none of these days.

Somebody who says he or she will do something one of these days -- that is, at some unspecified future time -- will probably never do it; said in response to such a person.

9) Dog does not eat dog.

A member of particular group of people will not -- or should not -- take action that will harm another member of the same group.

10) Walk the talk.

To back up boastful talk with meaningful actions.

11) A winner never quits, and a quitter never wins.

You need determination and perseverance to succeed.

12) Deny self for self's sake.

You do yourself a favor by not satisfying every desire or indulging every whim -- self-denial and unselfishness benefit the body and soul.

3. Cultural Context in Proverbs

To know a people, we need to learn their proverbs. Each culture has proverbs unique to it. Proverbs are short statements of truth about a people's values and beliefs. Common values like religion, ambition, virtue, generosity, patience, wealth are addressed in proverbs of almost all cultures. Therefore, learning proverbs enriches multicultural understanding. Learning them helps us distinguish similarities and differences among those who use them.

3.1 A Path to American and British Culture

Cultures that treat the Bible as their major spiritual book contain between three hundred and five hundred proverbs stemming from it. Thus, studying proverbs helps English learners grasp similarities and differences in the cultures of America and Britain relative to their own. This is a short cut to learning about those cultures. Practicing them in real communication will make your expressiveness in English highly esteemed.

Conversations or emails using proverbs draw attention and reinforce specific themes, making contents more easily understood. This boosts communications efficiency. The correct use of a proverb in a personal relationship can make your partner feel connected. Proverbs can be used in classrooms, newsletters, training programs, articles, presentations, or wherever they fit, though not too often. We can feel their power in action. Some of the most frequently used proverbs are enumerated below, following two themes. We can use them today.

3.2 Religion

Religion is a cultural system of behaviors, practices, world views, ethics, and social organization relating humanity to an order of existence (Moon J. 2011). Many proverbs from around the world address matters of ethics and

expected behavior. Therefore, it is not surprising that proverbs are important texts in religions. It is believed that the majority of the Americans and the English identify as Christian, while close to a quarter claim no religious affiliation. Therefore, a great number of proverbs are affiliated with Christianity.

1) If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent Him.

People have an innate need to believe in a divine creator who controls their destinies.

2) God made the country and man made the town.

The urban environment, constructed by human hands, is inferior to the natural countryside, the work of divine creation.

3) God moves in mysterious ways.

Strange or unpleasant occurrences are meant, and often turn out, for the best.

4) The Lord gives and the Lord takes away

God may take away something previously granted; often said in consolation to, or resignedly by, one who has suffered devastating loss.

5) God sends meat, but the devil sends cooks.

Bad cooks ruin good food.

6) The gods send nuts to those who have no teeth.

Opportunities or good fortune may come too late in life to enjoy or take full advantage of; also applied more generally to people of any age unable to use or benefit from the good that comes their way.

7) God takes soonest those He loves best.

God's favorites die young, because he longs to have them by his side again; often said in consolation, for example, to bereaved parents.

8) Every man for himself and God for us all.

At times of crisis or great danger, each must take responsibility for his or her own personal survival and hope for divine protection for all.

9) The nearer the church, the farther from God.

Active members or officials of a church are often the least godly in their daily lives; also applied to those who live close by a church.

10) A man without a religion is a horse without a bridle.

Religion helps guide one through life and controls his or her behavior, just as a bridle guides and controls a horse.

3.3 Love

There are many types of love. Romantic love, universal in every culture, is attraction based on sexual desire or affection and tenderness felt by lovers. In other words, it is a feeling of strong or constant affection for a person. Love receives great focus in Western and Westernized countries, so it does in proverbs, as well.

1) Why buy the cow when milk is free?

There is no point taking on the expense and responsibility of a wife and family when you can fulfill your sexual and other needs through casual relationships; also used in other contexts.

2) When poverty comes in the door, love flies out of window

Financial problems can cause the breakdown of a marriage or other loving relationships.

3) Two's company; three's a crowd.

Two people, especially friends or lovers, often regard a third as an unwelcome intruder.

4) Hell has no fury like a woman scorned.

A woman rejected by the man she loves has an immense capacity for ferocious or malicious revenge.

5) 'tis better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all.

It is better to have experienced the joy of love, even if it ends in sorrow,

than to never know the experience.

6) The quarrel of lovers is the renewal of love.

A loving relationship is often reestablished on a firmer footing after an argument.

7) There are other fish in the sea.

Plenty more people, things, opportunities, or options are available; often used to console somebody whose relationship with a boyfriend or girlfriend has ended.

8) Pity is akin to love.

Pity and love are related emotions.

9) Lucky at cards, unlucky in love.

Those with luck in card games are less fortunate in matters of the heart; said when somebody wins or loses at cards.

10) Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Your affection for those close to you -- family and friends -- increases when you part.

3.4 Money

Americans pride themselves on individualism, egalitarianism, and the concept of the American dream. They have traditionally believed that in the US, a person can start from nowhere yet be successful. Opportunities are everywhere, and the clear message is: Work hard and you'll get what you want. They also believe that happiness comes from material goods. They try to keep up with the Joneses by defining their worth on the basis of possessions. America is the center of materialism.

However, they tend to think it rude to discuss personal finances and financial decisions. This may be due to the basic American value of faith in an egalitarian society. Whatever the reason, money is a touchy subject, and questions about it may alienate or even upset an American(<http://>

allearsenglish.com/ae-200/). When talking about money, avoid asking for personal information with questions like: 1) How much did it cost? Asking how much a person paid for something is generally viewed as bad manners in America. 2) How much do you make? Though some Americans might answer this question for you, again, many find it bad manners to ask. 3) How much do you have in the bank? This question will likely come off as rude and intrusive. But proverbs about money let you approach these matters in a roundabout way.

1) Much coin, much care.

People with a lot of money have much to worry about.

2) Neither a borrower nor a lender be.

It is advisable never to borrow or lend anything, specifically money.

3) Riches have wings.

Money is soon gone.

4) If you don't speculate, you can't accumulate.

You will not succeed or get rich without risks and spending.

5) Bad money drives out good.

The existence or availability of something inferior or worthless -- whether it be money, music, literature, or whatever -- tends to make things of better quality or greater value more scarce.

7) Be just before you're generous.

Make sure all your debts are paid and other obligations met before giving money away or living extravagantly.

8) Don't throw good money after bad.

If you have already spent money on a venture that seems likely to fail, do not waste more on it.

9) A light purse makes a heavy heart.

Those with little money are anxious and troubled.

10) Both poverty and prosperity come from spending money -- prosperity

from spending it wisely.

Spending money recklessly makes you poor, but spending on things bound to yield a profit or rise in value makes you rich.

3.5 Evolution of Proverbs

As people and living environments adapt over time so does language. A clichéd movie title ‘Enough’ comes from the proverb ‘Enough is enough’, a good example of a living language evolving over time. Let us examine further examples of evolution in proverbs.

1) The original proverb, “The female of the species is deadlier than the male” may well be modified today as, “The email of the species is more deadly than the mail.”

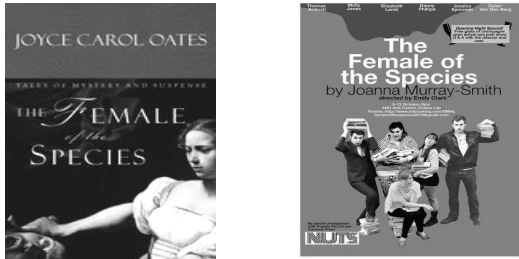


Figure 1 Two illustrations of proverb evolution, a short form of a proverb from <http://www.woroni.com.au/reviews/comedy-gold-the-female-of-the-species/>

i) The female of the species is deadlier than the male.

Women often prove more dangerous than men when roused to anger; also used literally in natural history contexts.

ii) The email of the species is deadlier than the mail.

Sending an email, usually to a large audience which is critical or non complimentary about a person or company etc., is really, really unwise.

2) “The meek shall inherit the earth” is often modified as “The geeks shall inherit the earth.”

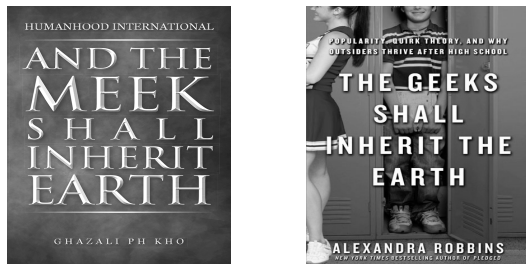


Figure 2 Two illustrations of book titles on evolution of a proverb. Based on <http://megabooks.co.za/shop/and-the-meek-shall-inherit-earth/>

- i) The meek shall inherit the earth.
Humility will ultimately be rewarded.
- ii) The geeks shall inherit the earth.
Those obsessed over one thing are everywhere.

4. Conclusion

Without understanding cultural depth in proverbs translation and interpretation can not be hitting the nail on the head. They can be a literal translation. In other words, word-for-word interpretation without understanding cultural context is also referred to as a metaphrase, meaning a verbatim translation or interpretation, while paraphrasing is a restatement of text in different words, often to clarify meaning.

Practicing proverbs in real communications can demonstrate their power on the spot, encouraging students to learn and practice them further. When you teach students, a few sessions of proverbs are recommendable considering limited class periods in a semester. Teachers are encouraged to adapt their

plans accordingly, either to streamline and expand the introductory comments into a single lecture or to encourage class discussion in multiple sessions with questions prepared in advance.

It may be appropriate to divide the material into two sessions: (1) an introduction to proverbs and wisdom literature and an in-depth discussion of proverbs, and (2) consideration of the collections of proverbs and a discussion of their wisdom in modern life.

These lessons can be adapted for ordinary college students and seminary students in particular. Teachers may wish to simplify the assigned reading, abbreviate analysis of textual units, and focus particularly on the interface between ancient and modern sources of wisdom. Proverbs can be used in classrooms, newsletters, training programs, article and presentations wherever fitting, though not too often. Overuse even hinders communications. We should, however, use some English proverbs, after consulting a good book on the subject. For further translation study my collection of 7,000 proverbs, cliches, and slangs and classification by theme will be gladly rendered, if necessary.

References

- 김대영 (2015) 「The Impact of Socio-cultural Factors on Translator Education in Korea」 『번역학연구』 16(4): 13-35.
- 장애리 (2011) 「통번역을 위한 문화능력: 이론연구를 중심으로」 『번역학연구』 12(4): 169-198.
- 조숙희, 조의연 (2013) 「글자번역 형식과 문화특징어 용례 분석」 『번역학연구』 14(5): 241-259.
- Copage, E. V. (1993) *Black Pearls*. New York: William Morrow.
- Dominguez Barajas (2010) *The function of proverbs in discourse*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. Elias.
- Feldman, R. & Voelke, C.A. (1992) *A world treasury of folk wisdom*. New

York: HarperCollins.

Grzybek, Peter. (1994) Proverb. Simple Forms: An Encyclopaedia of Simple Text-Types in Lore and Literature, ed. Walter Koch. Bochum: Brockmeyer, pp. 227-41.

Haas, Heather. (2008) Proverb familiarity in the United States: Cross-regional comparisons of the paremiological minimums. *Journal of American Folklore*, 121.481: 319 - 347.

Hirsch, E. D., Joseph Kett, Jame Trefil. (1988) *The dictionary of cultural literacy*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enough_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enough_(film))

Mac Coinnigh, Marcas. (2012) Syntactic Structures in Irish-Language Proverbs. *Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship*. 95-136.

Martin H. Manser (2007) *The Facts on File Dictionary of Proverbs*, Third Edition: The Facts on File. New York.

Moon, J. I.(2011). *English Interpreting Practice*. Seoul: World Plus.

Moon, J. I. (2011). *Power Listening Tutor*. Seoul: World Plus.

McGraw-Hill (2002) *Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs*. by The McGraw-Hill Companies.

Mieder, Wolfgang and Anna Tothne Litovkina. (2002) *Twisted Wisdom: Modern Anti-Proverbs*. DeProverbio.

Mieder, Wolfgang (2001) *International Proverb Scholarship: An Annotated Bibliography. Supplement III (1990 - 2000)*. Bern, New York: Peter Lang.

Mieder, Wolfgang (2004) *Proverbs: A Handbook*. (Greenwood Folklore Handbooks). Greenwood Press.

The American Heritage (2005) *New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy*, Third Edition Copyright by Houghton Mifflin Company. Houghton Mifflin Company.

Wolfgang Mieder (1990) *Not by bread alone: Proverbs of the Bible*. New England Press.

Zona, G. A. (1996) *Even withered trees give prosperity to the mountain and other proverbs of Japan*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

[Abstract]

Rhyme and Cultural Context in Proverbs: for Better Translation

Moon, Jae-Ik
(Kangnam University)

Proverbs, simple, concrete sayings, popularly known and repeated, express truth based on common sense or experience. Many are metaphorical and indirect, describing basic rules of conduct. Hence, they often must be read between the lines. Both the Bible, not limited to the Book of Proverbs, and medieval Latin aided by the work of Erasmus have played a considerable role in distributing proverbs across Europe. Mieder, Wolfgang defined proverbs as compact, well-known sentences “of the folk” which express wisdom, truth, morality, and traditions in metaphorical, fixed, memorable forms, “handed down from generation to generation.” Reading and practicing proverbs enriches learning and understanding of American and British cultures. Reading proverbs also improves English fluency. As one proverb says, “If one sheep leaps over the ditch, all the rest will follow,” meaning that a good precedent will be continued. Hopefully, then, when teachers use proverbs, students will do the same.

▶ Key Words: proverb, rhyme, rhythms, clichés, structure of proverbs

문재익

강남대학교 영문학과 부교수

mji@kangnam.ac.kr

관심분야: 통 번역, 영어 구조 구문, 에세이 쓰기, 실무영어, 취업영어

논문투고일: 2016년 4월 28일

심사완료일: 2016년 6월 6일

게재확정일: 2016년 6월 15일