

# **The German Translation of Chinese Animal Idioms With Examples of The 12 Chinese Zodiac Animals**

## **Abstract**

Working on the translating of animal idioms includes the translation strategies of animal terms and idioms. So at the beginning this articles should focus on the comparison between the conceptual and connotative meanings of these 12 animals in German and in Chinese. The author has found 6 ways of the comparison. These 6 steps play an important role in translating animal idioms. There are two basic types of animal idioms. One is the animal metaphor what we can easily tell the meaning of the idioms. The other is hardly understood and takes no connection with animal metaphors. In order to get the equivalence of German translation, 5 different translation strategies, which are the most commonly used strategies in translating idioms, are used in groups of these 2 types and 6 categories. For example, it shows the similarities between the Chinese and German culture in the symbolical meanings of some animals. Those animals, which have the similar conceptual and connotative meanings in both cultures, are classified in the first category. In the process of dealing with the first type of idioms, whose animal metaphors belong to the first category, the literally translation and loan German idioms translation are proposed. According to the classification of the 2 types of idiom and 6 categories of animals, a series of principles and methods of animal

idiom translation are applied in this thesis. In the end, to test the translation principles the methods of animal idiom, examples of the 12 Chinese Zodiac are carefully translated into German.

This thesis contains seven chapters:

Chapter 1 is foreword.

Chapter 2 presents some basic definitions.

Chapter 3 discusses the translatability of animal idioms and the difficulties, which come up in the translating process.

Chapter 4 introduces the methods.

Chapter 5 analyses the similarities and differences between the conceptual and connotative meanings of these 12 animals in German and in Chinese and infers the classification of the 2 types of idiom and 6 categories of animals as well.

In Chapter 6, a series of principles and methods are applied in the Chinese-German translation of animal idiom.

Chapter 7 is the conclusion.

Key words: Chinese zodiac, Chinese-German idiom, conceptual and connotative meaning, translation strategy