

Learn to translate document

For Cambodians, who wish to work as a professional translator

By Leng Chhay

Things to be considered

- Khmer sentence structures are very different from other languages such as English or German etc.
- It is impossible to translate word by word from English into Khmer
- Some English words that do not have direct meaning in Khmer
- There are many dialect/idioms that make many Cambodians difficult to translate

Good translation

- consistent meaning between the two languages (accuracy)
- Proper sentence, structures, and words in the translated document
- Using consistent words (for the same meaning) across the document
- Correct grammar styles

Guideline to achieve high quality translation (English-Khmer)

- Read the whole section to get overall understanding of the subject
- Read one full paragraph and get in depth understanding before you start translating it
- Ask an English native speaker to help explaining if you don't understand the sentences
- Be consistent! Make sure you use the same Khmer terms across the document
- Place the adjectives or passive voices in the right Khmer sentences
- Use dictionary or glossary to translate. Synonym or explanatory dictionary also helps a lot.
- Select the most appropriate Khmer words that fit most with the English words in a certain context
- Make the first read after you have translated to check the first understanding
- Ask someone else to proof read and edit the whole work of your translation
- Final quality check – re-read the whole document you have translated, and make all necessary final change before submitting your work to your client