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Semantic features of English collocations with the verb ‘make’ in international criminal documents: difficulties with, and suggestions for learning and translating

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ABSTRACT

One of the most problematic areas for foreign language learning is collocation. It is often seen as a seemingly insurmountable obstacle to the attainment of native like fluency. The following study takes an approach as a linguistic one by analyzing semantic features of the English collocations with ‘make’, which is widely used in the international criminal documents. The thesis analyzing their semantic features according to the categorization of the English collocations with ‘make’ used in the international criminal documents in order to find out the difficulties for learners and translators in dealing with these collocations as well as to impose the suggestions for these difficulties.

Key words: *collocation, linguistics, semantic, approach*

1. Introduction

Within the area of vocabulary research, collocations that are a transitional area between idioms and free combinations (Benson et al, 1986) have attracted the attention of language researchers. And language researchers have pointed out many reasons why collocations are so important in language acquisition. First, acquiring collocations is beneficial for EFL learners’ lexical development (Ellis, 1996) and communicative

competence (Nattinger, 1997). To gain overall language proficiency, learners need to gain collocational competence (Hussein, 1990). At the same time, acquiring collocational knowledge may help overcome the problems of comprehending a sentence word by word thus learners' listening and reading abilities can be improved. Also, by mastering collocations, learners' speech sounds more natural, and is more easily understood by native speakers. With increasing knowledge of collocations, EFL learners may be able to speed up their thinking in speaking and getting their meaning across more effectively (Hill, 2000).

In English, the verb 'make' does not only indicate an activity but also imply other situations in real life communication. To some extent, it is not too difficult to find such circumstances in which people use the verb 'make'. Especially, modern English language, which has developed and reflected the life in its own way, has been supplemented with many new words, or new interpretations to the existing words such as 'make an appointment', 'make an arrangement', 'make the best of', etc.

Whereas, along with the country's integration and development, bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation relations between Vietnam's public security forces and other countries' law enforcement forces have been increasingly attached much importance to. In this field, it is information absorption, processing and exchange that are considered the chief cooperation areas, in which information exchange plays a decisive role. In the fight against criminals, particularly international ones, information exchange on criminal matters as well as anti-criminal coordination is constant and pressing.

How do Vietnamese people deal with such expressions in English documents and newspapers relating to international matters? How to help overcome specific predicaments in learning and translating these documents; what are the difficulties for learning and translating the collocations and some implications in dealing with English collocations with 'make' in the international criminal documents in particular and other collocations in general? They are very big questions that seriously run in the author's mind and urge the authors to find out the answer.

On these above points, the study is conducted aiming at strengthen the ability of learners and translators in dealing with English collocations with 'make' in the international criminal documents in particular and other collocations in general. In order to achieve the aim, the study is expected to fulfill the following research questions:

1. What are the semantic features of collocations with "make" in international crime documents?
2. What are the difficulties for dealing with English collocations with 'make' in international criminal documents?
3. What should be done about these difficulties in dealing with English collocations with 'make' in international criminal documents?

2. Overview of collocations with “make” in international criminal documents in English

English documents related to international criminal matters of Vietnam are documents which relate to terrorism and anti-terrorism, narcotics and drug related criminal matters, Interpol and United Nations Office on Drug Control (UNODC) documents, among others. On the basis of the data collection, a wider variety of possible English collocations with make are used, especially in Interpol and UNODC documents or those related to terrorism and drug crimes.

Collocation is an important aspect in teaching, learning and translating international criminal documents written in English. Free combinations are easy to acquire because they come from the structure of extra-linguistic reality such as dark night and blue sky. They are “manifestly related to the referential and substantial meaning of the words concerned” (Robins 2000, p.56). For a teacher or a translator of international criminal documents written in English, collocation is an indispensable part of vocabulary teaching; idiomatic collocations of a new word should be given to the students. It is essential for a learner of international criminal documents in English to realize the importance of collocation in word acquisition and pay more attention to the proper use of collocation.

Most English words are polysemous, or have more than one meaning. This is the inevitable result of the development of English words and the requirement of the principle of economy of language. As a result, difficulty arises when it comes to the exact meaning of a word in a given context. Crowther, J. (2003) pointed out that “the precise meaning in any context is determined by that context: by the words that surround the combine with the core word - by collocation”. However, the common practice of students is to memorize the meaning of a word independent of any context and then apply that meaning whenever the word appears. This is the cause of some students’ feeling that although they know all the words in a simple sentence, they cannot make sense of it.

In this study, the authors mainly focus on English collocations with ‘make’ found in Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment (TOCTA) 2010 from UNODC and in some other documents such as: the Terrorist Financing Policy, the background of “The Terrorist Financing Policy”, International Terrorism and International Crime: Threats, Policy, and Considerations for Congress of the U.S., United Nations Convention against International Organized Crime.

3. Data collection and analysis

The extraction of the collocations from the international criminal documents was done with the help of the computing program WordSmith Tools and its main tools WordList, KeyWords and Concord to firstly generate a wordlist for the texts of the international criminal documents Afterwards, a keyword list was generated. After analyzing this list,

the keyword ‘make’ was selected. The next step, now using the tool Concord, was to analyze the context in which the keyword occurred and extract some collocations. As a result, the authors could discover a wider variety of possible collocates for the root ‘makes’ and the collocational patterns commonly or effectively used in the international criminal documents. (See APPENDIX)

3.1. Semantic features of English collocations with the verb ‘make’ in international criminal documents.

Semantics is a branch of linguistics dealing with the meaning of words, phrases and sentences; however, contrary to pragmatics it does not analyze the speaker’s intended meaning, or what words connote in a given situation, but the objective, conventional meaning. Additionally, it is concerned with the conceptual meaning rather than the associative meaning. The meaning of words is analyzed in several different ways in order to account for as many aspects of meaning as possible and among the ways of analyzing the meaning of words is the analysis of words in terms of their semantic features.

According to Yule (1996, p.89), semantic features are considered basic elements which enable the differentiation of the meaning of words. “Semantic feature analysis allows us to break down expressions into chunks of attributes” and “semantic features can be used to describe differences between antonyms, super-ordinates and their hyponyms, and near synonyms”. In short, the analysis of word meaning is often seen as the process of breaking down the sense of a word into its smallest components known as semantic features or sense components. The semantic features of the verb ‘make’ and specifically phrasal verbs with ‘make’ will be discussed in turn together with their explicit and implicit meanings.

3.1.1. Collocations with ‘make’ as phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs with ‘make’ have both explicit and implicit meanings. However, their explicit meanings are generally more commonly used. These explicit meanings can be divided into idiomatic and non-idiomatic meanings:

Idiomatic phrasal verbs with the verb ‘make’

Idiomatic phrasal verbs are those whose meaning cannot be built up from meanings of the individual items that constitute a particular phrasal verb with ‘make’. The combination as a whole denotes a new meaning. In other words, we cannot deduce the meaning of the whole word from the meanings of the constituent verb ‘make’ and its related particles. This means that the primary or original meaning of the verb ‘make’ is completely changed when combined with adverbial particles or prepositions, and of course, a new verb is formed with a totally different meaning.

E.g. *to make over (to cede) ...*

(1) Previously, on April 25, 2007, another former PCI executive, Leo Winston Smith, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Santa Ana, California, on several counts of FCPA violations and money laundering in connection with his participation in a scheme to **make over** \$300,000 in illicit payments to the same foreign official from 1993-2003. (Steps taken by State parties to implement and enforce the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, 2010, p.160)

In such combinations, there is no possibility of contrastive substitutions: There are no pairs such as *make up/ down*, *make off/ on*, *make out/ in*. The adverbial, lexical values of the particles have been lost, and the entire “‘make’ + particle” combination has acquired a new meaning.

(2) Narcotics **make up a significant portion of** this informal economy. (Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment (TOCTA) 2010 of United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), p.247)

(3) The smuggling of the chemical precursors needed to **make heroin from** opium is also a big business. (TOCTA 2010 of UNODC, p.247)

Some phrasal verbs with ‘make’ have several idiomatic meanings. This means that these meanings are mostly determined by the conventional meaning of the accompanying constituents and its contextual meaning, as well as the interlocutors, and the communication setting and form. We can take the phrasal verb “make out” as an example. There are at least three idiomatic meanings possible for this phrasal verb.

(4) The chairman cannot **make out** what they have reported.

(5) Elsewhere, a criminal association still is required to have more or less durable character, and thereby differs from the sort of ad hoc agreement that suffices to **make out** a conspiracy. (UNs Convention against International Organized Crime, By Roger S. Clark, 2003, p.15).

(6) How are things **making out**?

(7) Money from criminal enterprises, however, is believed to **make up** a small portion of Hezbollah’s financing. Iran is Hezbollah’s primary funding source, donating at least \$200 million in 2008, according to the State Department. (“International Terrorism and International Crime: Threats, Policy, and Considerations for Congress” of U.S., p.26)

Non – idiomatic phrasal verbs with the verb ‘make’

The verb ‘make’ and the accompanying particles may keep their individual lexical meanings as in “*to make out (to figure out)*, *to make up (to form)*.”

E.g. In Italy, one of the most important heroin markets in Europe and frequently identified as a base of operation for Balkan groups, Albanians **make up** the single largest group, constituting 32% of all arrestees between 2000- 2008. (TOCTA 2010 of UNODC, p.124).

Although in English documents related to international criminal matters, phrasal verbs with ‘make’ have no implicit meanings, to further understand the concept, we can consider the following sentences:

Situation: Two friends talking about Peter’s report.

A: What did you *make of* Peter’s report?

B: I cannot *make out* what he has written.

In this situation, B’s answer implies that Peter is careless and his report is not clear or well-written. Therefore, in respect of the implicit meaning, a part of the implicit meaning of these collocations is based on the meaning of “make + particles” and the remaining part depends on the specific situations, circumstances and purpose of the usage.

3.1.2. Collocations with the verb ‘make’ as prepositional verbs

Like phrasal verbs, prepositional verbs with ‘make’ also have both explicit and implicit meanings. When studying the explicit meanings of prepositional verbs with ‘make’, the authors found that these collocations also include idiomatic and non- idiomatic meanings in their explicit meanings:

Non-idiomatic meanings

Non-idiomatic prepositional verbs with ‘make’ are also those whose meanings are easily deduced from the meanings of the components. Specifically, it is possible to deduce the meaning from the meanings of the verb ‘make’ and the associated prepositions. E.g. make from, make in, make of, make with, make for, and make over.

The verb ‘make’ is used with its normal definition. The problem is remembering which preposition(s) are associated with it. Sometimes, different prepositions can be associated with it but the meaning remains largely unchanged, e.g. *make of, and make from*.

(1) The strategy is ***made of*** a set of distinct components that address various issues, such as border control between Afghanistan and its neighbors, the illicit trade in precursors, opiate-related financial flows to and from Afghanistan and preventing and treating opiates addiction and HIV/AIDS in the region. (TOCTA 2010 of UNODC, p.126)

(2) The head of the East African Seafarers Assistance Programme told Reuters that pirates are channeling money to Al-Shabaab, stating that “the money they ***make from*** piracy and ransoms goes to support Al- Shabaab activities onshore. (International Terrorism and International Crime: Threats, Policy, and Considerations for Congress of U.S., p.30)

Idiomatic meanings

Idiomatic meanings are those meanings that are not easily deduced from the meanings of the constituent parts. We need a context to understand this type of meaning. The

components of these prepositional verbs with the verb ‘make’ do not use their literal meanings. Relatively few of these collocations can be used in the passive, and the preposition cannot be separated from the verb ‘make’.

E.g. (1) Translation organized crime groups have ***made for*** ASEAN region. (=to reach)

(2) These vessels have a range of up to 2,000 miles and transport drugs off the shore of Mexico for trans-shipment to smaller vessels, which then ***make over***-the-shore deliveries. (Statement for the Record submitted by General Barry R. Mccaffrey, 2009, p.6) (= to cede).

For these prepositional verbs, there are some combinations that denote both non-idiomatic meaning and idiomatic meanings.

E.g. (1) Some very large estimates have been ***made of*** the value of the commercial child pornography industry, with very little evidence to back them up. (TOCTA 2010 Of UNODC, p.216), (=deduced from the meanings of verb ‘make’ and preposition ‘of’)

(2) This comb is ***made of*** ivory (= to think of).

In some cases, prepositional verbs with ‘make’ also are used with implicit meanings. Consider the following situation:

A: How much is this comb?

B: It is *made of* ivory

B’s answer tells us that this comb is very expensive and valuable.

Like phrasal verbs with ‘make’, the implicit meaning of prepositional verbs with the verb ‘make’ depends on the context, circumstances and purpose of every usage.

3.1.3. Collocations with the verb ‘make’ as phrasal-prepositional verbs

The semantic features of phrasal-prepositional verbs with ‘make’ usually have explicit meanings. Additionally, like phrasal and prepositional verbs with ‘make’, these multi-word verbs can be both non- idiomatic and idiomatic:

Non-idiomatic phrasal-prepositional verbs with the verb ‘make’

Three- part combinations, which can be used with their literal meaning, are common, e.g. *make out of*, *make up to*, and *make up with*.

E.g. With these prevailing conditions that ***make out of*** individuals or social groups enemies emerge correspondingly. (Journal of National Defense Studies by the Research Center of the Israel National Defense College, IDF, 2008, p.38)

Phrasal-prepositional verbs with the verb ‘make’ can often be manifest as substitutions for single-word verbs such as *to make up to (somebody)* in place of “*to apologize*”.

Idiomatic phrasal-prepositional verbs with ‘make’

The verb ‘make’ in this category often has little or no relation to its literal meaning such as: *make up for* (=indemnify), *make off with* (= to steal), *make away with* (= to destroy)

In these structures, there is no choice in the preposition that can be used after the particle. Each verb conveys a single and indivisible meaning.

E.g. (1) I’ve always mistrusted Maxwell. But I felt that because pensioners were, to a large extent, the province of the state ... that there was very little Maxwell could do to ***make off with*** the money. (Section II of Understanding White-Collar Crime by Herbert Edelhertz, 1980, p.49); (2) These groups may be motivated in part by a desire ***to make up for*** their losses in the Western Hemisphere. (TOCTA 2010 of UNODC, p.98) The implicit meaning of these collocations is clearly. We should consider the following sentence in order to further understand.

How can I ***make up for*** the way I’ve treated you?

This sentence performs several functions. Firstly, it is a question involving an offer. Secondly, it expresses the speaker’s regret about the way he/she had treated the listener.

3.1.4. Combinations of the verb ‘make’ + noun/ object (+ adjective/ verb)

Combinations of ‘make’ + noun/ object (adj/ v) are one of the most popular collocations in English documents and newspapers related to international criminal matters. Their typical semantic features clearly have different meanings Idiomatic meanings (non-motivated), Non-idiomatic meanings (motivated).

In general, combinations of the verb ‘make’ + noun/ object (+adjective/ verb) have motivated meanings that we can deduce from the meanings of the individual components.

E.g. (1) Criminals ***make money*** circumventing these controls, subverting attempts to distinguish licit and illicit trade in natural resource products. (TOCTA 2010 of UNODC, p.149-150); (2) There has been very little innovation in small arms design in the last 50 years – it appears there are few ways to ***make small arms more accurate or more deadly*** than they are today. (TOCTA 2010 of UNODC, p.126); (3) Therefore, as unprecedented openness in trade, finance, travel and communication has created economic growth and well-being, it has also given rise to massive opportunities for criminals ***to make their business prosper***. (TOCTA 2010 of UNODC, p.2); (4) It is generally difficult to steal and clandestinely traffic sufficient quantities ***to make the venture worthwhile***, so most military arms “trafficking” takes place under a veneer of legality. (TOCTA 2010 of UNODC, p.8); (5) Such guarantees will ***make it easier*** for firms to issue local bonds with longer maturities. (Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity, p.62)

Sometimes, some combinations represent idiomatic meaning.

E.g. *To make ends meet* means *to have enough money to pay for the things that you need*.

(6) Shortages under the centrally planned economy were commonplace, and people did what they could to ***make ends meet***. (TOCTA 2010 of UNODC, p.114)

Like other collocations, these combinations also bear implicit meanings which are not clear and largely depend on the meaning of sentence and the user's purposes. Furthermore, as the English documents and newspaper articles are on international criminal matters, these implicit meanings are hardly used.

3.1.5. Combinations of 'make' + expression + preposition

The meaning of these combinations can be deduced from the meanings of the components; mainly the verb 'make' and the expression. Therefore, the semantic features of combinations of the verb 'make' + expression + preposition are also mainly expressed in their explicit meanings. They have a non-idiomatic meaning.

E.g. (1) Migrants ***make an important contribution to*** the economy of Latin American countries (TOCTA 2010 of UNODC, p.60)

The meaning of whole combination "*make an important contribution to*" is deduced from the individual meanings of the verb 'make,' the expression 'an important contribution,' and the preposition 'to'.

(2) Efforts similar to those used in the Kimberley Process on conflict diamonds could ***make a major difference in*** the security of the DRC. (TOCTA 2010 of UNODC, p.256)

(3) In addition, some South-East Asian countries ***make provision for*** a 'barter' trade, where goods are exchanged instead of cash. (TOCTA 2010 of UNODC, p.163)

In English documents related to international criminal matters, these combinations' implicit meaning does not occur other than in certain special cases.

4. Difficulties in learning and translating English collocations with 'make' in international criminal documents.

On analyzing the semantic features of the English collocations with verb "make" in international criminal documents, the author indicates some difficulties in learning and translating the collocations with 'make' in English international criminal documents at the police schools.

4.1. The difficulty of generalization

Some English words collocate with one and the same word, but that is not necessarily so in Vietnamese. E.g., "*commit a mistake*" has an identical collocation in Vietnamese "*phạm một lỗi*". However, we cannot say in Vietnamese "*làm một tiếng ồn*" for "*make a noise*," we have to say "*làm ồn*".

On occasion, the verb ‘make’ and its Vietnamese equivalent, ‘làm’ can collocate with one and the same word in both languages, but this is not always the case, e.g., in Vietnamese, we can say: “đưa ra một quyết định” for “*make a decision*”, but we cannot say “*làm một may mắn*” for “*make a fortune*” but we have to say “*gặp may*”.

The verb ‘make’ is a word that can collocate with a number of different words. This is quite problematic for translators. Moreover, these collocations can only be found in select dictionaries, so translators may find it difficult to generalize about the meaning of verb ‘make’ as it collocates with other words. This can differ from one collocation to another as well as from one language to another.

4.2. Difficulties in finding Vietnamese equivalents

In general, many collocations with ‘make’ have been already translated by predecessors and senior officers working in their fields and have been introduced to several available dictionaries containing collocations with ‘make’ used in those fields. Thus, dealing with these collocations causes no difficulty to translators and interpreters. They simply employ the translations already offered in those dictionaries.

However, there are many collocations involving the verb ‘make’ which do not have Vietnamese equivalents. These collocations represent a major obstacle to the work of translators. Translating these may pose quite a few problems but the most significant one is in finding an accurate and appropriate equivalent for each collocation. This problem often arises when dealing with collocations with ‘make’ that are phrasal verbs, phrasal-prepositional verbs and combinations of verb ‘make’ + expression + preposition.

E.g. Whenever appropriate, States Parties shall *make full use of* agreements or arrangements, including international or regional organizations, to enhance the cooperation between their law enforcement agencies. (United Nations Convention against International Organized Crime, by Roger S. Clark, 2003, p.25)

4.3. Difficulties in translating the idiomatic meaning of collocations with ‘make’

Idiomatic collocations with the verb ‘make’ are those for which the overall meaning cannot be built up from the meanings of the individual elements of the collocation. The whole collocation denotes a new meaning. In other words, we cannot deduce the meaning of the whole expression from the individual meanings of the verb ‘make’ and the other components. This means that the primary or original meaning of the verb ‘make’ is completely changed when combined with other words. Thus, a new word phrase is formed with a total different meaning. This is incredibly difficult for translators because there will be no existing translation. They will have to determine the new meaning based on the relationship of the components or by using a range of the best available dictionaries.

E.g. *Make off with* (to steal), *make after* (to pursue), *make out*, etc.

In addition, some collocations may have several idiomatic meanings. This means that these meanings are mostly determined by the conventional meaning of the accompanying constituents of the sentence and the contextual meaning. This causes even more difficulties for translators in that they then have to both find new meanings and then choose the most appropriate meaning.

E.g. (1) The chairman could not *make out* what he said. (= *to understand*); (2) Elsewhere, a criminal association still is required to have more or less durable character, and thereby differs from the sort of ad hoc agreement that suffices *to make out* a conspiracy. (UNs Convention against International Organized Crime, by Roger S. Clark, 2003, p.15) (= *to plan*)

In addition, during the translation of English collocations using the verb ‘make’ commonly used in English language international criminal documents into Vietnamese, a translator may face other difficulties due to the linguistic features of English collocations and the differences between the two languages as well as the two cultures. Moreover, a translator is always under pressure to provide timely and precise information in the shortest time possible because their task concerns international criminal investigations and national security. All these requirements pose huge difficulties for a translator during the translation process.

5. Some stages and techniques learning and translating English collocations with ‘make’ in English international criminal documents into Vietnamese and vice versa

The English-Vietnamese translation of these collocations requires translators to use all the stages and techniques to convey the meaning of the source language into Vietnamese. That includes the use of words which already have an equivalent in Vietnamese and creating translations of new words for which no equivalent is currently available in Vietnamese. Based on the motivated (non- idiomatic) and non-motivated (idiomatic) meaning of collocations, the authors suggest four stages and some techniques to efficiently translate English collocations with verb ‘make’ which often occur in English documents relating to international criminal matters into Vietnamese:

5.1. Stages

Stage 1: Identify the type of these collocations

As laid out in chapter 2, every type of collocation has a different pattern and set of possible meanings, so the translator has to determine the collocation type by identifying its components.

E.g. Courts *make institutional decisions* by defining the character of rights. They can create strong rights, moderate rights or no rights at all. The character of the right represents a different institutional choice. (Convicting the Innocent in International

Criminal Cases: A Comparative Institutional Analysis Approach to the Problem, by Song Richardson, 2008, p.71)

“*Make institutional decisions*” is a collocation using the pattern “Make + Noun” and has two components: the verb ‘make’, and the noun ‘institutional decisions’.

Stage 2: Identify syntactically/ semantically meaningful units of the English collocations.

In this stage, the translator will identify the general meanings of the verb ‘make’, along with the meanings of accompanying components in these collocations such as nouns, verbs, objects, or adjectives.

E.g. With the collocation ‘*make institutional decisions*’, we will identify: common meanings of the verb ‘make’ (*to create, to produce, or to cause*) and the noun “institutional decisions” (*institutional choices or judgments that you make after thinking and talking about what is the best thing to do*).

Stage 3: Decide whether the units represent constituents or flexible word pairs.

During this stage, the translator will choose the most appropriate meanings of the verb ‘make’ and that of the other constituents. These meanings need to be flexible.

E.g. With “*make institutional decisions*”, we will choose the most appropriate meanings of verb ‘make’ (*to cause*) and noun “(*institutional choices or judgments that you make after thinking and talking about what is the best thing to do*).

Stage 4: Find matches in Vietnamese and rank them, assuming that the highest-ranked match for English collocations is their translation in Vietnamese.

In this stage, we will translate meanings of the verb ‘make’ and other components chosen in stage 3 into Vietnamese by finding their equivalents in Vietnamese. Finally, the translator will rank these Vietnamese meanings to determine the highest-ranked match for the given English collocation.

E.g. With “*make institutional decisions*”, we will find equivalents in Vietnamese of the verb ‘make’ (*đưa ra, tạo ra*), and the noun ‘institutional decisions’ (*những quyết định thể chế*), and then arrange them as follows “*Đưa ra những quyết định thể chế*”.

However, these stages are most suited to ‘make’ collocations that are combinations of ‘Make’ + N/ O + V/ Adj, ‘Make’ + Exp + Prep, or prepositional verbs. To efficiently translate ‘make’ collocations forming phrasal verbs and phrasal-prepositional verbs, along with the above- mentioned stages, translators should use good collocation dictionaries described earlier because the meanings of these collocations cannot be deduced from the individual meanings of their components.

5.2. Techniques

In employing the four above-mentioned translation stages, some techniques need to be used to produce natural translations of these ‘make’ collocations and meet other requirements.

1. The technique of addition enables translators to add some words which are not found in the English language when translating these collocations, so as to make the translation increasingly fluent and coherent.

E.g. “Migrants **make an important contribution to** the economy of Latin American countries”. (TOCTA 2010 of UNODC, p.60): “*Dân nhập cư mang lại đóng góp quan trọng cho nền kinh tế các nước Mỹ La Tinh.*” Obviously to convey the appropriate and fluent meaning, “mang lại” was added in the Vietnamese version whereas there is no equivalent expression to “mang lại” in the English language.

2. The exact opposite of the technique of addition, is omission which refers to the reduction of pleonastic words that might be unnecessary in conveying the meaning in the translation. In other words, translators can make use of omission to leave out redundant words that do not really change the meaning of the version.

E.g. when translating “*make decisions*” as “*quyết định*”. “Make” was omitted to make the Vietnamese version more concise while retaining the original meaning.

3. Replacement requires translators of ‘make’ collocations to have insights into the most common types of linguistic units: parts of speech that have a considerable influence on grammatical transformations between English and Vietnamese.

The replacement of parts of speech is quite common in translation. For instance, verbs in English can be replaced by nouns in Vietnamese and vice versa to facilitate the accuracy and appropriateness of the English and Vietnamese semantics.

E.g. “The fluid nature of TOC networks, which includes the use of criminal facilitators, **makes targeting TOC increasingly difficult.**”(Strategy to Combat International Organized Crime of U.S., 2011, p.17): “*Việc tiếp cận TOC ngày càng khó khăn hơn chính là do bản chất dễ thay đổi của những mạng lưới này*” Obviously, the ‘make’ collocation “*makes targeting TOC increasingly difficult*” was replaced with the noun “*việc tiếp cận ngày càng khó khăn*” to provide the equivalent meaning in the target-language’s style.

4. Expression

These collocations have various forms, with some having idiomatic meanings, by virtue of their being short well-known statements or wise sayings that offer people practical advice about life. It should be borne in mind that translators, when translating collocations, ought to find in the Vietnamese language utterances or word combinations

which have an equivalent meaning to those in the English language. Especially since the meaning of a fixed combination is not equal to the sum of the meaning of separate words.

E.g. “Money *makes many things*”: *Có tiền mua tiên cũng được.*” It should not be translated word by word in this case (e.g. Money makes many things: Tiền tạo ra nhiều thứ.”) “Instead, to be easily understandable, the translators turned to the saying with the equivalent-meaning “*Có tiền mua tiên cũng được*” in the Vietnamese language to transmit a clearer message to Vietnamese speakers.

“Practice *makes perfect*”: *Có công mài sắt có ngày nên kim.*” Like the example above, this too is a situation requiring the expression technique. This makes the inherent meaning clear and coherent. How can the translator convey the full message if they stick to a word- for-word translation (e.g. “Practice makes perfect: Thực hành tạo nên sự hoàn hảo)? This would hardly convey any real meaning to a Vietnamese speaker due to the lack of familiarity with the custom.

In English language documents and newspapers related to international criminal matters, this technique is rarely used, because the ‘make’ collocations found in these documents have few idiomatic meanings.

6. Conclusion

English collocations in common and English collocations with ‘make’ in international criminal documents in particular can be divided into grammatical and lexical collocations. Each type of collocation may cause difficulty or confusion in learners and translators of English. This is due to the fact that there are no comprehensive clear-cut guidelines for non-native learners to decide which exact combinations are acceptable and whose co-occurrence are predictable; whose are possibly acceptable for creative purposes only, or which ones are completely unacceptable. The only way to get better grasp of these collocations is by building up an awareness of them and encountering them both receptively and productively. Based on the research results, it is hoped that would help learners and translators deeply understand semantic features of the English collocations with ‘make’ in the international criminal documents in their process of language acquisition.

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Appendix

Hereafter are the collocations with the verb ‘*make*’ extracted from international criminal documents in English (mainly TOCTA 2010 of UNODC):

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| - Make function as | - Make a claim |
| - Make extradition | - Make a complaint |
| - Make threat to | - Make a concession |
| - Make available | - Make contact (with) |
| - Make ends meet | - Make demands on |
| - Make progress | - Make an effort |
| - Make provision for | - Make up |
| - Make difference in | - Make against |
| - Make it + Adj. | - Make out |
| - Make policy | - Make from something |
| - Make a decision | - Make in something |

- Make contribution to
- Make an enquiry
- Make a break
- Make arrangements
- Make an argument for
- Make an attempt
- Make the best of
- Make a bow
- Make a cancellation
- Make a charge
- Make of something
- Make up for something
- Make up to somebody
- Make full of something
- Make room (place) for somebody
- Make terms with
- Make after
- Make off with
- Make up for
- Make out of