

In translating from one language to another we run on to the problem that usages are often so very different. A good illustration of this is the difference between English and German. Here are two languages that are very closely related. A great many of the words have identical origins. The usage of the words, however, is often extremely different. The word "science" in English has come to mean the study of natural phenomena. Translating the word "science" into German, we would use the word which simply means "knowledge." Then, if we have the word "knowledge" to translate into English, we have to look into the context to see whether it means ordinary knowledge, whether it means knowledge of any particular area of thought, where it be history, philosophy or science, or whether it specifically means what we in English call "science." Words do not exactly correspond, though they overlap, in ~~in~~ this case our English word ~~is~~ "science" representing a small part of the very large area of meaning represented by the German word that would be most literally translated "knowledge."

This is particularly true when we come to usages. In English, when we order something we say, "I will take a ham sandwich." In German we say, "I take a ham sandwich." In ~~German~~ German the phrase, "I will take a ham sandwich" would be expressed in the following order: "I will a ham sandwich take." The German word for "will" can also mean "become." Thus if we do not complete the sentence but simply say in German, "I will a ham sandwich" it can just as well mean, "I am going to become a ham sandwich," which would indeed be ludicrous. There are many cases where translating the German into English would similarly produce ludicrous results.