

ness of effect is helped along by the tendency to abbreviated expression, — such as the frequent occurrence of a quotation without mention of the speaker, and the presence of subjects and objects without verbs, — thus rendering sentences often extremely elliptical.

“Other causes have operated in rendering the sense uncertain; such, for instance, as the interruption of the sequence of a passage, the interruption being due to the sudden appearance of persons for one cause or another, or whose presence was desirable, or to the response of some call, domestic, social, or ceremonial. In a less degree, the uncertainty of the sense of a passage has been due to the delay in translation.

“The language is spoken in word-sentences, and the rendering in English is generally longer. In a passage capable of more than one rendering, preference is given to the shorter. The inchoative character of a verb is always present, despite the fact that it may not be explicitly expressed in the stem. This inchoative sense is not always brought out in the translation; in particular, if the omission is not likely to interfere with the general meaning of a passage. As already stated, the English equivalent is generally longer than the original, and it has been the object to keep the length of the translation back as near as possible to that of the original. Frequently, however, the inchoative would be superfluous in the English idiom, hence in such instances it is left unexpressed in the translation. A common peculiarity is met with in the inception of an inchoative, a beginning-to-do or a beginning-to-be. It is enough in English to say that ‘he commenced his work,’ or that ‘he started to grow in stature;’ but it is common in Ojibwa to say that ‘he began to commence his work,’ or that ‘he began to start to grow in stature.’ The inception of this inchoative is seldom expressed in the translation.