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# 汉英同声 传译的压缩策略

Compression Strategy in Chinese-English  
Simultaneous Interpreting

王永秋 著



外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS



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# 序 言

昔日北大蔡元培先生谓：“大学者，研究高深学问者也。”大学的逻辑起点首先应该是学术，高水平的大学更不能例外。对知识的传递、批判和探索，是大学生存与发展的永恒主题。在知识经济迅猛发展的时代，大学作为知识传播与创新、技术创新与转移的主体，理所当然地成为国家创新体系建设和自主创新的基本主体，成为人类进步和社会发展的知识之翼。大学学术研究能力的开发，本身就孕育着未来经济和社会发展的萌芽，把川流不息的知识转变成为技术创新的新源泉，已经成为当今大学学术研究不可或缺的重要任务。

一流的科研成果是一流学术成就的核心。没有一流科研成果的大学，不能称之为研究型大学。在“十一五”发展规划中，我校明确提出“把我校建设成为若干学科达到国内一流水平、在国内外具有重要影响的多科性教学研究型大学”的办学目标。这一目标不仅体现了全校上下紧跟时代脉搏锐意进取的拼搏精神，还体现了我校对我国高等教育大改革、大发展、大跨越的基本走向的理性认知。要实现这一奋斗目标，关键是要紧紧围绕学术的卓越，全力打造一流的队伍、培养一流的学生、构筑一流的学科平台，潜心培育有利于知识创新和学术卓越的制度环境与大学精神。

学术卓越也是评价学科建设水平的核心指标之一。学科建设水平是一流大学的根基，只有具备一流的学科才能成为一流大学。分析世界一流大学学科发展的演进轨迹可以发现，经过几十


年甚至几百年的锤炼和发展，总有一批学科成为它们的“顶梁柱”，甚至可以作为学校的代名词。我校要建设和形成一批特色鲜明的高水平学科群和学科链，就必须以学术卓越为标杆，营造砥砺学术、崇尚学术的良好风气，实现学术水平的历史性跨越。

兴校之举，首在得人。作为大学不仅要培养和造就能够占据学科前沿、富有创新激情的拔尖创新人才，还要依靠学科带头人、学术带头人、学术骨干等一批拔尖人才汇聚创新团队。世界一流大学都拥有一批世界级的学术大师。从某种意义上说，有了世界一流的师资队伍就等于有了一流的学术成就。哈佛大学前校长科南特（James B. Conant, 1893-1978）曾说过：“大学的荣誉不在于它的校舍和人数，而在于它一代一代教师的质量。一所学校要站得住，教师一定要出色”，“在依靠人才方面，十个二流的人不能代替一个一流的人。”人才问题是制约和影响大学可持续发展的核心要素，谁拥有质量更优、数量更多、创新能力突出的优秀人才，谁就能处于竞争的优势地位。长期以来，我校着眼于打造一支精英汇聚、敢于创新、善于创新的师资队伍，积极构建面向国际招揽人才的机制和校内科学合理的人才选拔机制，提倡百花齐放、百家争鸣，让广大教师的学术思想自由发挥，真正把我校建设成为名副其实的教学研究型大学，为建设“人文北京、科技北京、绿色北京”贡献智慧和力量。

近年来，我校积极提倡“科研引领学科发展，科研提升办学水平，科研服务社会进步”的工作理念，以创新平台、重点科研基地和重点学科为依托，以学科带头人为核心，以重大项目为纽带，发挥多学科集成的优势，加大相关学科的交叉融合力度，初步形成了一批科研创新能力强，特色鲜明的研究团队，进一步巩固和提高了我校科研工作的影响力，增强了社科研究发展的后劲，提升了社科研究工作的水平。

为提升我校的科研水平和学术影响力，构建我校特色科研的长效机制，提高科研资源配置效率，培植一批特色鲜明、优势突出的国内一流学科，鼓励专任教师从事学术研究，扶持具有我校学科特色、扬我所长并与首都经济社会发展密切相关的科研成果，培养和发展一批学术带头人和中青年学术骨干，带动学校整体科研和学科水平不断迈上新的台阶，在人才人事工作部门、科研管理部门的努力下，学校设立了“北京第二外国语学院博士文库出版基金”。出版基金主要用于资助具有较高学术水平的博士论文、学术专著和高水平的学术译著，充分发挥其辐射效应，带动相关学科的繁荣与进步，达到“以点带面，纲举目张”的效果。

在博士文库系列著作付梓出版之际，我感到由衷的高兴。衷心感谢各位作者及相关工作人员的辛苦努力，并期待有更多的优秀成果出版。

北京第二外国语学院校长 

# **Abstract**

The aim of the study is to investigate the use of compression strategy in simultaneous interpreting (SI) with reference to the language combination of Chinese (Cantonese) and English. The study uses concepts in linguistics (such as the Economy Principle, Grice's Theory of Conversational Implicature) and translation theories, including Chernov's (1987/2004) categories of compression, Levý's (1967) Minimax Principle, Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS), Skopos Theory, and "the Theory of Sense".

The study addresses the following questions: (1) To what extent do professional simultaneous interpreters resort to compression as a strategy in Chinese and English SI? (2) Is compression intrinsic to the process of SI and universal for all language combinations? If so, are Chernov's categories of compression applicable to Chinese and English SI? (3) What are the causes and factors of compression in SI? How factors such as contexts and situations, textual inferences and syntactic differences in the two language systems affect interpreters' use of compression as a strategy in SI?

This research uses quantitative and qualitative methods. It adopts a corpus-based approach, embracing discourse analysis, DTS, participant observation and simple statistics. This is achieved through compiling a parallel corpus of the performance of professional

simultaneous interpreters in three meetings of Hong Kong Legislative Council (LegCo) in which the renderings are made from Chinese (Cantonese) into English, i.e. from language A to language B. It is found that compression occurs in 60% of the whole discourse in all the three meetings and compressions are used mainly as a linguistic strategy in the specific situations and temporal constraints due to linguistic redundancy in human languages and specific characteristics of the spoken language. All of Chernov's categories of compression are found in Chinese (Cantonese) and English SI, such as syllabic compression, lexical compression, syntactic compression, semantic compression and situational compression. Pragmatic compression is also found in the data. The main factors of compression are linguistic redundancy of languages, specific characteristics of the spoken language, speech contexts and situations, different syntactic structures of Chinese and English, and interpreters' manipulation with delivery speed under stringent temporal constraints in the process of SI. Professional skills and experiences of individual interpreters and their delivery speeds have also affected their use of compression in SI.

The study concludes that interpreters use compression as a linguistic coping strategy to match with the speakers' delivery speeds in the specific discourse environments and contexts of SI under temporal constraints. Compression is also a "labour-saving device" to cope with cognitive loads in the extreme conditions by simultaneous interpreters. It is also a stylistic device to achieve brevity and clarity for the target text, and an effective communicative device to realize the communicative act which benefits the addressees. Compression is found to be intrinsic to the process of SI which could be argued as a



universal phenomenon and a universal strategy for all language combinations.

Studying compression has both theoretical and practical implications for quality assessment in interpreting, interpreter training and interpreting practice. It could also provide us with concrete and palpable signs of the interpreting process. The findings of the study may also be applied to other language pairs, to the translation of subtitles, and to sign language interpreting. The study provides us with a new perspective to the objective assessment of some phenomena in SI, such as omissions, substitutions, deletions and simplifications.

**Keywords:** simultaneous interpreting; compression; strategy;  
Chinese (Cantonese)-English

## 摘要

本研究的目的是探讨“中文(广东话)—英文”同声传译<sup>1</sup>中压缩现象的规律与压缩策略的运用。本研究采用语言学的省力原则、语用学的会话含义理论和翻译理论,如契诺夫对压缩现象的分类、列维的“最小最大原则”、描写翻译学、翻译目的论和释义学派理论为基础。

本研究提出并试图回答以下问题:(1)汉英同声传译中译员如何在有限的时间内应用压缩作为语言应对策略?(2)压缩现象是否是口译过程中固有的、普遍的现象?如果是的话,契诺夫对压缩现象的分类是否适用于汉英同声传译?(3)同声传译压缩现象的原因是什么?语境、话语语篇和语言差异等因素如何影响译员压缩策略的选择?

研究采用定量与定性分析的研究方法,具体使用语料库、原文与译文对比、描写翻译学、现场观察、简单统计分析等方法,通过描写分析香港立法会“中文(广东话)—英文”同声传译的平行语料,探讨“中文(广东话)—英文”职业同声传译中译员运用压缩策略的规律和原因。

研究发现压缩现象存在于60%的译语语篇中,其中大部分压缩现象属于译员在同声传译特定的时间限制和特定的语境下为

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<sup>1</sup> There are several translations for the term “simultaneous interpreting” in Chinese, such as 同声传译 (China's Mainland), 实时传译 (China's Hong Kong SAR), 同步口译 (China's Taiwan). The author adopts the translation of 同声传译 in this thesis.

达到交际目的、同步传递讲话者的意思，而根据语言特点所采用的语言应对策略。压缩现象是同声传译中固有的和普遍的现象。契诺夫对压缩现象的分类适用于汉英同声传译。契诺夫对压缩现象的分类——音节压缩、词汇压缩、句法压缩、语义压缩和情景压缩——在“中文(广东话)—英文”同声传译中全部存在。在本语料中作者还发现了语用压缩现象。本研究语料丰富了契诺夫对同声传译压缩现象的分类并拓展了同声传译压缩现象的研究。同声传译压缩现象的主要因素是语言的冗余成分、口语话语特点、讲话语境、汉英语言句法和文化差异等。同声传译的具体话语语篇、译员的职业经验和技能以及译员的思维与表达速度均会影响压缩策略的应用。

本研究得出以下结论：压缩是同声传译译员为应对时间限制根据语言特点在具体的同声传译情景下所采用的语言应对策略；压缩也是同声传译译员在同声传译这种特殊条件下为减轻认知压力所采取的省力策略；压缩也是同声传译译员为使译语清晰简洁、表达流畅所采用的一种文体策略；压缩也是一种有助于听众理解和接受的交际策略。压缩现象是同声传译过程中固有的和普遍的现象，压缩策略也是一种普遍的策略。适时有效地使用压缩策略是职业同声传译译员的一种职业技能。

研究同声传译压缩现象和策略对同声传译质量评价、同声传译教学与同声传译实践都有具体和实际的指导意义。研究同声传译压缩现象也有助于深入认识和理解同声传译过程。本研究对其他语言间的同声传译、字幕翻译以及手语翻译也会有一定的借鉴意义。本研究对评价同声传译中的一些现象，如省略、替换、删除和简化等，提供了一个新的客观评价的视角。

**关键词：**同声传译；压缩；策略；中文(广东话)—英文

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## **Abbreviations Used in This Book**

<b>CACL</b>	<b>Committee on Admissions and Language Classification of AIIC</b>
<b>CE</b>	<b>the Chief Executive of HKSAR</b>
<b>CI</b>	<b>consecutive interpreting</b>
<b>DTS</b>	<b>Descriptive Translation Studies</b>
<b>EVS</b>	<b>ear-voice span</b>
<b>HKSAR</b>	<b>Hong Kong Special Administrative Region</b>
<b>LegCo</b>	<b>the Legislative Council</b>
<b>L1</b>	<b>first language / language A</b>
<b>L2</b>	<b>second language / language B</b>
<b>SI</b>	<b>simultaneous interpreting</b>
<b>SL</b>	<b>source language</b>
<b>ST</b>	<b>source speech / source text</b>
<b>STM</b>	<b>short-term memory</b>
<b>TL</b>	<b>target language</b>
<b>TT</b>	<b>target speech / target text</b>

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