

汉译英常用表达式经典惯例

◎ 陆国强 编

Classic Examples of Converting Chinese to English in Terms of Expressions for Everyday Use

上海外语教育出版社
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汉译英常用表达式经典惯例

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前 言

为对比英、汉两种语言在概念表达结构上的异同,揭示两种语言的转换规律,从而为英语教学和翻译实践提供理论支持和实践指导,编者根据概念能力理论(the theory of conceptual competence),与计算机专家合作开发了英汉互动转换软件,创建了概念结构数据库。本书正是这一数据库衍生的学术成果。

由数据库支撑的概念结构研究有以下几个特点:

一、概念表达结构化

概念表达在语流中需要结构化(Concepts need to be structurized in the stream of speech)。这句话意指一个词表达一个概念时,只有通过结构形式才能与他人沟通和互动(communicate and interact with each other)。概念表达结构化的优越性彰显在翻译中,能确保译文语言地道,行文流畅。例如:

我们向该厂订购了三台车床。

“订购”英语为 place an order,“与该厂”英语为 with the factory,“三台车床”英语为 three lathes。将上述三个义群(sense group)融合成一个统一的整体,即是概念表达结构化的过程。英译文:

We placed an order for three lathes with the factory.

请读者自己对以下例证作深度分析:

1. 医生给我开了个止痛药方。*The doctor gave me a prescription for pain-killers.*
2. 他在纽约一家与他有往来的银行开了一张 500 美元的支票。*He drew a check for \$500 on his New York bank.*
3. 她将为他施行肺癌切除手术。*She will perform an operation on him for cancer of the lung.*
4. 我们必须采取积极措施打击恐怖主义。*We must be proactive in fighting terrorism.*
5. 她发誓要为母亲报仇。*She swore to avenge her mother.*
6. 他向杀父凶手报了仇。*He avenged himself on his father's killers.*

ii 前言

7. 你应该为妻子和儿子着想,给自己保人寿险。You should insure your life for the sake of your wife and children.
8. 他给自己保了10万美元的人寿险。He insured himself (or his life) for \$100,000.

二、围绕主词条辐射多种结构形式

以主词条(main entry)为中心牵引出一系列表达方式。因此,只要查阅主词条,就能获得该词条的多种结构形式和用法。现以“希望”一词为例加以说明:

1. 我们希望他恢复健康。We hope (or cherish the hope) that he will recover.
2. 他们活着的希望不大。There is not much hope of their being still alive. (or: There is not much hope that they are still alive.)
3. 他们把全部希望寄托在新上任的经理身上。They're pinning (or setting) all their hopes on the new manager.
4. 别让他抱太大的希望。Don't raise (or build up) his hopes too much.
5. 别抱太大的希望。Don't pitch your hopes too high.
6. 医生对病人不抱多少希望了。The doctors don't hold much hope for the patient.
7. 这事宣布后,我们的一切希望都破灭了。All our hopes were dashed (or shattered) by the announcement.

三、激活概念结构联想机制

每一个人脑中都有概念结构系统,系统中的概念结构在语义上互相连接。所谓激活概念结构联想机制(activate the mechanism of conceptual structures),就是促使概念结构联想机制启动和运行,形成同义或近义概念结构联想、反义概念结构联想和关联概念结构联想。

1. 同义或近义概念结构联想

He praised him for his courage.

We commended the chef on the excellent meal.

It is your responsibility as well as ours.

It is as much our responsibility as yours.

It is both our responsibility and yours.

2. 反义概念结构联想

He is confident of success.

He is diffident of success.

His illness disabled him from pursuing his studies.

His recovery enabled him to pursue his studies.

3. 关联概念结构联想

关联概念结构联想以一个概念为轴心展开联想,由轴心辐射出的结构形成关联概念结构的网络(a network of relevance-driven conceptual structures)。例如,以“投标”这一概念为轴心,易与“招标”“中标”等发生联想,自然形成在线概念结构网络(an on-line network of conceptual structures):

三家建筑公司投标承建我们的新车库。*Three builders put in (or submitted, made) tenders for our new garage.*

市政会招标采购建筑工程。*The council has invited tenders for the building contract.*

本公司中标承建新体育中心。*Our company has won the tender for the new sports complex.*

四、剥去源语的语言外壳,保留其语义实体

这是更高层次上的语言对比,即两种语言的思维模式对比。在翻译的过程中,最大的认知障碍是常规的思维模式,即在词和结构形式上一味追求词性、词序和词义的机械对应(mechanical correspondence)。这是一种对号入座的思维方式,其致命的缺陷是将源语(the source language)的概念结构强加于目的语(the target language)的概念结构,结果是语法结构绝对正确,而概念结构在形式和意义上不相匹配。这种英语被斥之为中式英语(Chinglish)。

请对照以下两种不同的译文并加以分析:

我们享受公费医疗。

原译文: *We enjoy free medical care.*

参考译文: *We are entitled to free medical care.*

我们需要在各方面深化改革(或合作)。

原译文: *We need to deepen reform (or cooperation) in all fields of endeavour.*

参考译文: *We need to deepen our commitment to reform (or cooperation) in all fields of endeavour.*

从汉语的思维模式来看,原译文无懈可击,但以英语为母语的人(a native speaker of English)一看就凭借概念能力(即语感或语言直觉)作出判断,认为原译文在概念衔接(conceptual cohesion)和概念连贯(conceptual coherence)上均有缺陷, *enjoy* 与 *free medical care*, *deepen* 与 *reform* 或 *cooperation* 均缺乏语义相容性(compatibility),应把 *enjoy* 改为 *are entitled to*。在英语概念结构中, *deepen* 与 *reform* 或 *cooperation* 的搭配使用是不能成立的,只能说 *deepen a river*, 或 *deepen one's understanding* 等,而不能说 *deepen reform (or cooperation)*, 这个心理空位(mental space)应让 *commitment* 来填补,即 *deepen our commitment to reform (or cooperation)*。

上述例句的处理具有针对性,锁定在(zero in on)思维模式上。请再看下例:

政府正在采取积极措施消除贪污腐败。*The government is proactive in stemming graft and corruption.*

若不整治好医改制度,美国有可能会步通用汽车公司的后尘。*If we do not fix our health-care system, America may go the way of General Motors.*

我并没有说你懒惰,但有则改之,无则加勉嘛。*I didn't actually say you were lazy, but if the cap (or shoe) fits, wear it.*

“别再装傻了,”警察说。“戏该收场了!”*“It's no use pretending any more,” said the policeman. “The game is up!”*

作为概念结构数据库的衍生成果,本书收录的经典实例可归类如下:

一、时事用语

1. 改革开放

今年是中国改革开放 30 周年。*This year marked three decades since the opening up of China through economic*

reforms.

2. 深化改革

他们优先考虑在各方面深化改革(或合作)。They give priority to deepening their commitment to reform (or cooperation) in all fields of endeavor.

3. 中国特色社会主义

他们正在建设中国特色社会主义。They are building up a distinctively Chinese Socialism.

4. 不动摇,不懈怠,不折腾。

Don't vacillate, don't slack off, don't create disturbance (or don't make trouble).

二、日常用语

1. 报销

公司会(给你)报销差旅费。The company will reimburse (you) your travel expenses.

我来给你报销全部旅费。I'll refund you the full cost of your fare.

2. 报应

那是因果报应。It was a case of retributive justice.

恶行必将随之得到报应。Evil deeds will be quickly followed by retribution.

这次失败是你懒惰的报应。This failure is a judgment on you for being so lazy.

3. 不买账

该委员会无权恫吓整个城市,因为市长不会买它的账。The committee has no right to threaten an entire city, because its mayor won't fall into line.

4. 不客气

她父亲威胁说,我要是再设法同她约会,他就不客气了。Her father has threatened to take off the gloves if I ever attempt to meet her again.

5. 不进则退

在这个世界上不能停滞不前,不进则退。There is no standing

still in this world; one must either advance or fall behind.

6. 不敢苟同

约翰对《明星》杂志上刊登的有关他的报道实在不敢苟同。

John begs to differ with the report on him in the Star.

7. 闭塞

闭塞(或闭关自守)的社会(或经济) *a closed society (or economy)*

她思想闭塞僵化。 *She has a closed mind.*

他觉得城镇太闭塞了。 *He finds the town too much of a backwater.*

8. 不赔不赚

这家公司一年以后才能赢利,现在至少不赔不赚了。 *It will be a year before the company makes a profit, but at least it's breaking even.*

9. 包涵

如此叨扰,甚感抱歉,祈请多多包涵。 *We are very sorry indeed that you have been troubled and we ask your indulgence.*

10. 内涵

这次演出技艺精湛,但缺乏内涵。 *It was a very polished performance, but it lacked soul (or but without soul).*

三、口语化表达方式

1. (实在)不是个东西

别怪我骂人;他实在不是(或真不是)个东西。 *Don't blame me for swearing like that, but he's a bloody nuisance!*

2. 不管三七二十一

咱们不管三七二十一,玩个痛快吧! *Let's enjoy ourselves and damn the consequences!*

3. 脑子出毛病

他脑子准是出毛病了。 *He must be going soft in the head.*

4. 你又来这一套了

there you go again (used to criticize sb. when he or she behaves in a way that is typical of him or her):

你又来这一套了——匆匆下结论。There you go again — jumping to conclusions.

5. 有戏看了

要是报界抓住这条丑闻大肆渲染，那就有戏看了。There'll be fun and games if the newspapers get hold of this scandal.

6. 那才算是好样的。

坚持到底！那才算是好样的！Keep it up! That's the spirit!

7. 那没什么了不起

那没什么了不起，就这么一回事，很简单。There's nothing to it. That was all there was to it.

8. 那又怎么样呢

不错，是我写的，那又怎么样呢？Yes, I wrote it. What of it?
“他不喜欢你。”“那又怎么样呢？”“He doesn't like you.” “So what?”

四、时髦语

1. 套套近乎

to curry favor with (sb.); to cotton up to (sb.); to keep (sb.) sweet; to be specially pleasant with sb. to win favors:
他得跟老板套套近乎，因为他企盼着升职(或加薪)。He has to keep his boss sweet because he needs to ask for a rise.

2. 捣糨糊

to muck around; to muddle along; to muddle through; to go goldbricking on the job; That's simply a cosmetic half pleasure;

他在训练时捣糨糊。He just mucked around in training.

要确定人生的目标，别再捣糨糊了。Decide what you want in life; don't just muddle along.

3. 忽悠

to trick or cheat (sb.); to deceive or dupe (sb.);

老太太遭忽悠把信用卡交给了他。The old woman was duped into giving him her credit card.

4. 网开一面

to go beyond what is usually allowed; to make a concession;

to stretch a point in sb. s favor:

约翰并非全部合格,但我认为我们可以为他网开一面。John doesn't have all the qualifications but I think we should stretch a point in his favor.

5. 谈恋爱

to spend time together, with a view to marriage:

两人谈恋爱已有两年之久。The two have been courting for two years.

从小到大,我曾经好几次叫母亲给我讲她和父亲的相遇、谈恋爱和结婚等情况。Many times when I was growing up, I asked mother to tell me the story of their meeting, courting, and marriage.

6. (使)有感觉

to make sb. excited, or interested, esp. sexually:

他看到穿迷你裙的姑娘就有感觉。He gets turned on by girls in miniskirt.

五、习语和谚语

习语如:

1. 随遇而安

to adapt oneself to circumstances; to take things as they come:

随遇而安离幸福就不远了。Taking things as they come is halfway on the road to happiness.

2. 急流勇退

to stop doing something or leave a place while conditions are still favorable or while it is still easy to do so:

这儿的竞争越来越激烈——我们还是急流勇退吧。Competition here is getting stiffer all the time — let's go while the going is good.

3. 安之若素

to bear (hardship, etc.) with equanimity; to regard (wrong doing, etc.) with indifference:

有些人觉得很难适应退休的生活,但他却能安之若素。Some

people found retiring difficult, but he has taken it in his stride.

4. 失之交臂

to miss an opportunity; to miss winning (a medal, the race, etc.):

在比赛的最后关头他与金牌失之交臂。The gold medal slipped from his grasp in the last moments of the race.

5. 驾轻就熟

to handle a job with ease because of previous experience; to do a familiar job with ease:

起初她觉得这工作很难,但现在已驾轻就熟了。She found the job difficult at first, but now she's really getting her stride.

6. 爱莫能助

to be willing to help but unable to do so:

很抱歉,爱莫能助,我没有钱借给你。Sorry to be so disobliging, but I have no money to lend you.

7. 韬光养晦

to keep quiet about one's talents and accomplishments; to hide one's candle (or light) under a bushel:

我从不知道你还还会唱歌,这些年可真是韬光养晦。I didn't know you could sing. You've been hiding your candle (or light) under a bushel all these years.

谚语如:

1. 刀剑威逼顺者少,好言劝说人皆服。

Swords conquer some, but words subdue all men.

2. 新官上任三把火。

a person who has just been put in charge of an organization will always start with great vigor to make many changes to improve its effectiveness; a new broom (sweeps clean):

年轻校长的意见没有全部得到校务委员会的认可,但是他新官上任,决心把自己的想法付诸实施。The headmaster's ideas were not all approved of by the school committee, but he was a new broom and was determined to put them into practice.

3. 心诚则事灵。

Things work out if only one trusts.

4. 一山容不得二虎

A great man cannot brook a rival.

5. 一失足成千古恨

A single misstep and you will regret it for good.

6. 谋事在人,成事在天。

Man proposes, God disposes.

7. 重赏之下必有勇夫。

Rewards allure men to brave danger.

8. 智者千虑必有一失

Even Homer sometimes nods. (used to say even the most intelligent, skilled or trustworthy people do not always produce work of the highest quality or may make mistakes)

本书英文释义和例证译文与国内出版的汉英词典相比,均有自己特色,敬请读者鉴定和指教。

由于谚语结构完整,使用独立性较强,相对其他表达而言,其译文对上下文的依赖也较少,因此译法相对固定。所以对于这类表达,本书一般不再提供例句。另外,书中每个表达式的英文释义重在说清含义,增进理解,因此未必是对应译法,而对应译法则主要通过例句来体现,这正是作者编写此书的旨趣所在。

本书正文按音节字母排序,不考虑声调和笔画、起笔等因素;若首字音节字母完全相同,则依第二字音节字母排序,以此类推。为便于检索,本书在正文前提供按汉语拼音排序的条目索引;拼音相同时按笔画排列,少的在前,多的在后;笔画相同时,则按起笔横、竖、撇、点、折顺序排列。

正文中有些条目后有方括号,括注的是该条目未单独立条的同义表达。为使读者能检索到它们,这些同义表达都作为独立的检索项列入了索引。

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