



全国翻译专业资格(水平)考试指定教材

英语笔译综合能力

主编 汪福祥

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英语笔译综合能力

(二级)

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前 言

《全国翻译专业资格(水平)考试英语笔译二级考试大纲(试行)条例》(下称《条例》)第二款有关《笔译综合能力》考试的目的和要求中明确指出:考生需“具备快速阅读中等长度英语文章并用汉语写出概要的能力,具备快速阅读中等长度汉语文章并用英语写出概要的能力,具备对各种文体英语文章的阅读理解能力”。本教材的编写以《条例》的要求为基,力求在提高考生快速、正确阅读理解汉英文章,培养考生提炼、归纳、总结文章主旨等能力方面给予考生尽可能有效的指导和启发。

心理语言学有关“语言理解”的研究表明,“语体”(Language Form)的行为有其“语义”(Language Meaning)传达和表达的路径(如“自上而下”、“自下而上”、“花园小径”)等。任何一种语言,无论文体或遣词造句有何变化,其意义的表达均需通过一定的语言形式和语言结构来完成。这就意味着,提高语言的理解能力必须从语言建构和意义表达路径这两个方面入手,而提高效率 and 速度也就无疑有赖于方法的选择了。当然,笔译二级《综合能力》考试中所规定的“概要写作”和“阅读理解”的考试模式已为方法的选择确定了明确的方向,因此,本教材内容的安排基本上是依据考试总体要求和考题模式展开,力求从根本上帮助考生解决语言理解中需要解决的难题,为大家稳步、快速提高理解能力和理解技巧提供可供研学、思考和实践的重要途径。

本教材共分16个单元(Unit),每个单元由“概念知识”、“范文分析”、“理解策略”和“理解实践”四个部分组成。其中,“概念知识”一节主要为大家提供有关语言理解的理论知识和思考途径;“范文分析”以实践语料为依据,力求使大家从范例分析中通过比较寻找提高理解技能的突破口;“理解策略”一节强调对学生理解思路的培养和挖掘,这也是对第一节和第二节知识的总结和强化;“理解实践”一节以“实践出真知”的原则为导向,力求使大家在大量的理解实践中有所发现、有所领悟、有所提高。

根据“全国翻译专业资格(水平)考试英语专家委员会”全体专家的讨论意见,笔译综合能力的考查应强调双语(英语、汉语)概要写作能力的训练和培养。出于这一考虑,本教材的“范文分析”和“理解实践”既包括了“见英文生中文概要”的训练内容,也包括了“见中文生英文概要”的训练模式。这样的训练无疑是着眼于翻译工作者必须具备的重要条件而特别设计的。诚然,如果说“概要写作”训练强调综合理解能力的培养,而“阅读选择答题”无疑就是用来强调读者对文章细节准确把握的能力了。出于此因,我们在本教材中也为阅读理解的选择

答题训练提供了带有指导性和启发性的讲解和练习。

最后需要指出的是,翻译工作者的翻译能力和翻译质量在很大程度上取决于译者对原文文体和结构与意义和信息互动态势的把握和驾驭能力。没有对原文主旨和细节的驾驭能力,就不可能有准确译文的产生,而准确译文的产生又取决于译者“译入语”(The Target Language)扎实的语言功底和较深的语言造诣。除此之外,译者的知识结构、知识范畴和认知水平,对语言行为的洞察力和感悟力,用语言进行意义和信息的传达与表达能力,对翻译工作的高度责任感、严谨的治学精神和一丝不苟的谦虚态度均属“翻译素质”之列。为此,我们谨希望大家能在本教材的指导下尽可能多地实践、领悟,再实践、再领悟,以不断更新自己的知识结构、不断扩展自己的知识视野、不断提高自己的认知水平,为把自己培养成一名能致力于祖国伟大翻译事业的合格的高级翻译人才而砥砺前行、日日图新。

本书编者

二〇〇三年十二月于北京第二外国语学院

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U 第一单元 Unit 1

Language and Translation

语言与翻译

语言不仅仅是思想交流的工具,而且也是信息载体和传播媒介。人类思想交流靠的是语言,信息的承载、传播靠的也是语言。首先,思想的交流靠的是特定的语言符号:只有通过特定的语言符号,思想的交流才能产生。同样,源于人类绝大多数信息的承载、传播也是语言。但应该指出的是,人们常说的语言不单纯是口述语 (Spoken Language) 和书面语 (Written Language),语言还包括手势语 (Gestures)、标记语 (Signs) 以及空间语 (Space) 在内的非文字语言 (Non-verbal Language)。就翻译(笔译)而言,所接触的当然是书面语,而书面语无疑是以语言符号为载体的思想的交流和信息的传播或记载。这就意味着说,翻译的任务就是把一种语言符号转换成另一种语言符号并将其承载的思想和信息用另一种语言符号承接过来。要做到这一点,译者首先应对语言承载信息的特点有个概括性的了解。

第一,人的思想或信息是靠语言符号来传达和承载的,而语言符号的组成又根据人类思想或信息交流或传达的复杂需要构建而成。其中,词、词组、句、段、章就是最基本的符号构建。但传达信息的媒介还不止这些;标点符号、文体、语气以及时态等,也是符号系统的重要组成部分。这些同样是符号,同样承载着思想、信息和意义。

第二,语言文字所承载的思想或信息不仅受特定语言语法编码的制约,而且还具有民族文化、社会习惯的“排他性”(Exclusiveness)。仅就英语语法编码而言,其 to be done 的句式不但为思想或信息的表达或传达确定了“方向”,而且还为人们的思维确定了“轨迹”。就语言的“排他性”而言,汉语的歇后语或四字语有“排他性”,同样,英语的 humor 和 puns 也有“排他性”。即便是词语层面的,汉语中“感慨”的语言形式有“排他性”,英语中的“privacy”或“dilutee”也有“排他性”。因此,搞翻译的需要不断、深入了解这些,以提高排除这些具有很大“排他性”语言内容的能力和化解矛盾的技能。

第三,两种语言的同质性和异质性也是译者应熟悉和了解的语言知识。事实上,在任何两种语言之间,既存在很多的同质性(如对自然世界的描述),也存在着很大程度的异质性(如心理和情感描述)。这就意味着说,在A语言中存在的表达或表示法在B语言中既会有相应的表示法,也会有不尽相同的表示法或表达法。以修辞为例,任何两种语言都有独到之处:汉语口语中的“扫帚星”是汉语特有的,而jinx则是英语特有的。切勿认为你说的She is a comet.在英美人听来就是你要表达的意思。同样,英美人笔下yellow publications的意思和你所认为的“黄色出版物”也绝不是一码事。

第四,人类复杂的思想 and 信息潜藏在每种语言符号系统的各个角落。有的依附在结构上,有得则依附在字里行间;有的隐含在时态上,有的则隐含在词与词的碰撞之时或组合之中,还有的隐藏在标点符号之中。这就如同一个人的“善良”,有显而易见的,也有隐藏在内在世界的。因此,搞翻译的人既需要把握住语言符号系统“明露”出的信息,也需要窥测出“隐藏”在符号系统中那些隐约的信息。

总之,“拿本词典就能当翻译”的想法是对翻译的一大误解,而“得意忘形”也是一种错误的认识。虽然每个译者不能把握某一种语言庞大符号系统中的方方面面,但也绝不能不注意其中的方方面面。你对一种语言庞大符号系统的行为了解得越多,你在翻译中犯的错误就会越少,这也是译者应该努力实现的一个目标。同样,每个民族的语言信息和意义都是通过某一种符号系统来传达的,因此,符号的建构和意义的表达是“身和影”的关系。这一点应该引起特别的注意。在本单元内,我们想通过实例和亲身体会使大家对上述有个更好的理解。



1.1 符号与符号群的关系

A Symbol and the Symbols

英语语言符号的最小单位是字母,如M或F。尽管有些此类的符号已具备词义,但大多数单个字母的意义需要语境或“语场”(field)的衬托,需要其它字母的配合。单词也如此。一个孤立的单词已具有某种意义,但当一个单词与另一个单词组合在一起时,其意义也许就和原来这两个单词各自的意义相距甚远了。以black(黑)和diamonds(钻石)两词为例。当这两个词以词组的形式出现时,其意思指的是“煤”,和原来两个词各自的意思就大不相同了。由此看来,符号的意义取决于符号群或“语场”(language field),而更大的符号群的意义又取决于更大的“语场”。本节安排的练习就是使大家对这方面的知识有个概括性的了解和认识。

(一)符号与语境

Directions: Take a look at the following groups of symbols, get a feel of how the context affects the meaning of the individual symbols. Then, translate each of the groups of symbols into Chinese.

[第一组] From N to S, from E to W.

[第二组] Your Sex: (M) (F)

- [第三组] U-shaped iron; T-shaped steel
 [第四组] U. N documents; USA soldiers; CPC members
 [第五组] Class-A management; suit to a T
 [第六组] The structure: S + V + O; A VIP hotel
 [第七组] GRE test; TOFLE scores
 [第八组] VOA news; From A to Z
 [第九组] A course in P. R; China's GNP
 [第十组] An MA candidate; DNA research

(二) 符号与符号群: 单词与词组

Directions: Read the following colloquialisms, study how the word changes in meaning when in connection with other words. Then, translate each of the collocations into Chinese.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. agree to disagree | 11. a blessing in disguise |
| 2. get the upper hand | 12. cooking the books |
| 3. cost an arm and a leg | 13. bring down the house |
| 4. pay through the nose | 14. put a bug in her ear |
| 5. fall asleep at the switch | 15. carry a chip on one's shoulder |
| 6. bring home the bacon | 16. be hot under the collar |
| 7. more bark than bite | 17. feel like a million dollars |
| 8. like a bear with a sore head | 18. handle with kid gloves |
| 9. have a bee in one's bonnet | 19. keep a stiff upper lip |
| 10. make his blood boil | 20. have someone's number |

(三) 单词、词组与语境

Directions: Translate each of the following paragraphs into Chinese.

[语境与翻译练习一]

The Contemplation of Excellence

Whoever has so far formed his taste, as to be able to relish and feel the beauties of the great masters, has gone a great way in his study; merely from a conscientiousness of his relish of the right, the mind swells with an inward pride, and is almost as powerfully affected, as if it had itself produced what it admires. Our hearts, frequently warmed in this manner by the contact of those whom we wish to resemble, will undoubtedly catch something of their way of thinking; and we shall receive in our own bosoms some radiation at least of their fire and splendour. That disposition, which is so strong in children, still continues with us, of catching involuntarily the general air and manner of those with whom we are most conversant. [参考答案见 RK: 001]

[语境与翻译练习二]

Altruism

The strength of altruism lies in the fact that altruistic acts undeniably occur in any society and that moral codes universally advocate altruism or benevolence and condemn selfishness. The issues surrounding altruism include the following. Given the self-preserving tendency of human nature, how are we to account for the existence of altruism? Even if we can understand how altruism occurs, is it morally justified? Are altruistic acts merely apparent and really motivated by self-interest? Since one should reasonably pursue one's own interest, does the good of others itself provide reason for an agent to promote that good? Given the difficulty in understanding another person, how can altruism really serve the good of others? [参考答案见 RK: 002]

[语境与翻译练习三]

A U. S Made Genius

In his early ballets, Robbins favored clear-cut dramatic situations. "What really interests me," he said in 1958, "is the conduct of man, the rites he performs to face the mysteries of life." *The Cage* portrays a tribe of ferocious, insect-like women who kill the men with whom they mate; *In Afternoon of a Faun*, two dancers meet in a studio for a sensuous yet self-absorbed encounter that ends in an oddly tentative kiss. Later, Robbins adopted the plotless style of Balanchine, his mentor and idol, firmly denying that his new works were "about" anything but movement and music. Dancegoers knew better. *Dances at a Gathering* may not have a plot, but it is full of vividly drawn characters who relate to one another in abstract yet deeply emotional ways.

Offstage, Robbins was a self-made enigma who gave interviews rarely and only on his own terms, meaning no personal questions. Though his homosexuality was an open secret, he never discussed it in public, going so far in 1951 as to become engaged to the ballerina Nora Kaye. (They never married. Interestingly, he cast her as the novice man killer in *The Gage*.) It took a subpoena to get him to talk about his private life: He testified before the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1953 about his involvement with a communist group of the '40s, naming eight other party members. "I feel I'm doing the right thing as an American," he explained. But many left-wing friends never forgave his apostasy, doubtless reinforcing his inclination to keep the outside world at a safe distance.

Dancers constantly swapped tales of his high-handed behavior at rehearsals. "I know I'm difficult," he told the cast of *West Side Story*. "I know I'm going to hurt your feelings. But that's the way I am." Painstaking to the point of mania, he often cast his ballets at the last minute, usually after trying out several dancers in each role. "His work was the primary thing in his life," says Edwards Villella, who created major roles in *Dances at a Gathering and Watermill*. "and anybody who was connected with it had to think in those terms too. It was life and

blood and humanity, and everybody else was raw material for his genius.”

Robbins took his final curtain call in May, at opening night of the New York City Ballet's revival of his *Les Noces*. The once vital choreographer had grown frail, but his snow-white beard still glowed like a beacon, and when the dance was over, he made his careful way to center stage, hobbled by age and illness but radiating undimmed authority. More than a few onlookers wept, knowing that the golden age of ballet—the starlit century of Serge Diaghilev, George Balanchine, Antony Tudor, Sir Frederick Ashton and Jerome Robbins—was drawing at last to a close. [参考答案见 RK:003]



1.2 单词与语境

Words and Contexts

单词的意义不但为人所赋予,而且也深受语境的影响。以 *apple* 一词为例:尽管英美人赋予 *apple* 这组语言符号的意义是“苹果”,但在(1)He worked for the Apple. She is the apple of her father's eye. (3) The Apple is a noisy place. (4) She ran into a wise apple. (5) One apple a day keeps the doctor away. 这五句中, *apple* 的意指已脱离了人赋予该词的原意,其实际意义受到了语境或“语场”的限定。事实上,即便是一部小说的名字,如 *Catch-22*,其意指仍依赖于语境提供的参照。比如,在 *That was obviously a Catch-22 for the corporation.* 一句中,其意义因受语境的影响而发生了变化。再以为大家所熟知的 *nurse* 一词为例。在(1)She is a nurse. (2)She is nursing the hope of buttering up her boss. (3)He is nursing his elbow. 这三句中,该词的意指都因语境的变化而发生了变化。由此可见,译者要确定单词的意义,语境是最好的参照之一。

Directions: Translate each of the following paragraphs into Chinese, get a feel of how context affects the meaning of words.

[英汉翻译练习一]

Television has changed the importance of issues. It can be argued that since the 1960 presidential debates we have elected people, not platforms. This is a major departure from earlier years. Franklin Roosevelt's radio charisma cannot be denied, but he was swept to power by one issue—the Great Depression.

思 考:(1)What do “issues” in the first line and the “one issue” in the last line respectively mean? The translation?

(2)What is your translation of the phrase “not platforms”?

[英汉翻译练习二]

So why build it? There are good political reasons for doing so. It will provide work for the thousands of unemployed defense workers who depended on the Cold War for their jobs, and who make up a substantial proportion of voters in both Russia and the U. S. It will also help keep American/Russian ties strong—another reason NASA believes the space station is a good investment.

And then there is the legacy of the Cold War. The Berlin Wall may have fallen, but NASA and the U. S. government still seem to believe in the ideal of one nation's superiority in space. Indeed, NASA describes the space station as “a powerful symbol of U. S. leadership”. (From the article Space Politics)

思 考: What does the word “legacy” mean by the dictionary, and does it mean the same thing in this passage? And your translation?

[英汉翻译练习三]

Government bureaucracies and large corporations account for most of the global expenditures on research and development, and they have the resources to take innovations from the laboratory bench through the testing stage and into widespread use. They are thus the prime actors in the development and application of new technologies. Public influence over this process is exercised chiefly through purchasing power in the marketplace—which is itself shaped by the advertising budgets of the industries that develop new technologies—and through political pressures in the halls of government. Usually however, public influence is limited to attempts to curb the use of technologies that are already well along the path to development, such as nuclear power or supersonic transportation; there is little opportunity for individuals to have much impact on the processes that lead to the generation of new technologies. (From The God That Limp: Science and Technology in the Eighties)

思 考: Consult the dictionary for the directional meaning of the word “bureaucracies” and see if one of the provided definitions fits into your translation of the paragraph. Can you work out the meaning of that word in this context?

[英汉翻译练习四]

As the Union armies pressed forward Lincoln gave increasing attention to the problem of restoring peace when victory was achieved. It must be done, he said in his second inaugural address, “With malice toward none; with charity for all. . .” Desiring a speedy reconstruction of a united republic, he set forth a simple plan. Ten percent of the voters in a Confederate state, if they took an oath of allegiance to the United States, could organize a government and resume

their old place in the federal union. By 1865 several states were putting the plan into operation. But strong opposition had developed in Congress. Many Republicans believed that such generosity was unrealistic. They felt that there should be more punishment for Southern traitors and more protection for freed slaves. The whole question of Reconstruction remained unsettled at the time of Lincoln's death. (From Abraham Lincoln and the American Civil War by Don E Fehrenbacher)

思 考: Can you translate the word “developed” into “发展” in this paragraph? If not, which Chinese phrase you can use for the word in this context?

[英汉翻译练习五]

Sweden's foreign-policy establishment, however, is in a stew. It fears that Sweden will now be on the defensive in the negotiations that will begin next month over a constitution for the EU. Without Mrs. Lindh, a less experienced minister will have to handle them. And the government is bracing itself to resist demands for a referendum on any new EU constitution too.

Big business is also taken aback. Companies like Ericsson have given warning that, in the long run, foreign investment in Sweden will dip. And some economists fear that the country may forgo a boom in trade within the euro zone. Swedish voters, however, heard all these arguments before the referendum and were plainly unimpressed. As one voter in the far north told Swedish television on election night, “It is too soon to make a decision. Come back in 20 years and ask me again.”

思 考: (1) What is your translation of the word “establishment” and “arguments” in this context?

(2) What influences your decision?



1.3 单词具体指意的确定

The Specific Meanings of Words

如前面(1.2项)所示,单词的具体指意有赖于语境所提供的参照。当然,语境有“近语境”(Immediate Environments)和“远语境”(Remote Environments)之分。“近语境”指某个词的邻词;“远语境”指距离某词较远的语言成分。以 This area is highly developed. 一句为例。确定 developed 一词的具体指意有赖于 this area 这个“近语境”所提供的参照。而在确定 She had been taking very good care of all the letters she has received from the Chairman. . . But she burnt all these documents, not knowing why. 一句中 documents 一词的具体指意时就有赖于

“远语境”所提供的参照了。在该句中,documents无疑是指“这些信件”,而非“文件”。下面就请通过练习体会在确定单词具体意指时需要注意的事情。

练习一

单词与词组

Directions: Take a look at the following phrases, translate each of them into Chinese, paying special attention to the different shades of meaning of the phrases.

1. light fingers _____
2. a light adaptation _____
3. light bobs _____
4. light car _____
5. a light chain _____
6. a light bomber _____
7. a piece of light bread _____
8. light colonel _____
9. light artillery _____
10. a light box _____
11. a light cruiser _____
12. light air _____
13. a light touch _____
14. a light step _____
15. a light heart _____
16. a light mistake _____
17. light foods _____
18. light smell _____
19. light work _____
20. a light eater _____

练习二

单词与句子

Directions: Take a look at the following sentences, translate each of them into Chinese, paying special attention to the different shades of meaning of the word “communicate”.

1. As the President of the corporation, he is always able to **communicate** his ideas to his subordinates and through whom to all the employees of the corporation.
2. The accused was forced to **communicate** all the underground activities and dirty dealings of the “net” to the police.
3. In order to **communicate** information about motions, standards of length and time are certainly highly necessary.
4. Of the governor’s motions, purposes, or plans, she knew nothing, and so had nothing to **communicate**.
5. In order to change the financial situation of the company, the manager called for a meeting and asked all the participants to **communicate** their ideas about the matter.
6. His passion and affection had easily **communicated** to all those people around him.
7. Her language is singularly agreeable to me, and the information she **communicates** is often just what I wish to gain.
8. I shook hands with the chairman, hoping to **communicate** his firmness of his stand to him.
9. The United States Navy is investigating the use of fiber optics for **communicating**

with submerged submarines.

10. The only way you can motivate people is to **communicate** with them, letting them know how you care for their enthusiastic participation in the development of business of the company.

练习三

单词与篇章

Directions: Translate each of the following texts into Chinese.

(一)

Meanwhile, we'll continue sending probes to Mars, as well as to its moons, the asteroid belt and the moons of Jupiter. The probes will be robots, directed by human and artificial intelligence to explore and to perform tasks similar to those we did as astronauts during the Apollo program. Computer engineers and automation experts will be needed to design these machines.

Man will eventually step onto the surface of Mars—but not merely to plant a flag and come back home. Mars is 49 million miles from the Earth. Bridging this gap takes nine or more months; the round trip is nearly two years. (From the essay *Your Future in Space* by Alan L. Bean)

思考: What does the word “plant” mean in this context? And your translation?

(二)

Poor prime minister. Ever since narrowly losing to the conservatives' Jacques Chirac in the presidential election of 1995, Lionel Jospin has dreamed of revenge in the election due in 2002. And reasonably so. In three years as leader of a left-wing coalition government, cohabiting with President Chirac, Mr. Jospin has cultivated an image of integrity all too rare in French politics; his pragmatism, rather than his rhetoric, has given France its healthiest economy for decades; and his political skills have kept the left united while the right seems intent on fratricide. And yet, despite all this surefooted progress, mockers on both right and left now claim the prime minister is losing his way to the presidency. (From the *Economist*, Sep 16th-22nd, 2000)

思考: How do you translate the word “progress” and “his way” in this paragraph? Do the translation “进步” and “他的方法” fit into the translated text?

(三)

The bad times Bank of America is currently facing are partly the result of the good times the bank enjoyed earlier. Based in a large and populous state and operating in a regulated environ-

ment, Bank of America thrived. Before deregulation, banks could not compete by offering savers a higher return, so they competed with convenience. With a branch at every crossroads, Bank of America was able to attract 40 percent of the California deposit market—a source of high earnings when the legal maximum payable to depositors was much lower than the interest on loans. (From Business Today, Random House Ltd. 1989)

思 考: Can you translate the first “compete” in the same way as you translate the second “compete”? If not, what factors prevent you from your doing so?

提 示: 以此段中 compete 一词为例, 在 Before deregulation, banks could not compete by offering savers a higher return, so they competed with convenience. 一句中两个 compete 各有各的指意: 我们将第一个 compete 译为“抗衡”, 而将第二个 compete 译成了“竞争”。这样的选择无疑是根据该词的“近语境”所决定的。原因在于, 第一个 compete 之前的 could not 为该词增加了一定的“重量”, 而第二个 compete 的“重量”较第一个相比略轻些。但如果将两次出现的 compete 都译作“竞争”, 译文读起来就失去了平衡, 而且语意的再现也不够准确。这一点值得引起读者的注意。

(四)

Beauty

For the Greeks, beauty was a virtue: a kind of excellence. Persons then were assumed to be what we now have to call whole persons. If it did occur to the Greeks to distinguish between a person's “inside” and “outside,” they still expected that inner beauty would be matched by beauty of the other kind. The well-born young Athenians who gathered around Socrates found it quite paradoxical that their hero was so intelligent, so brave, so honorable, so seductive—and so ugly. One of Socrates' main pedagogical acts was to be ugly—and teach those innocent, no doubt splendid-looking disciples of his how full of paradoxes life really was.

They may have resisted Socrates' lesson. We do not. Several thousand years later, we are more wary of the enchantments of beauty. We not only split off—with the greatest facility—the “inside” (character, intellect) from the “outside” (looks); but we are actually surprised when someone who is beautiful is also intelligent, talented, good.

It was principally the influence of Christianity that deprived beauty of the central place it had in classical ideals of human excellence. By limiting excellence (virtus in Latin) to moral virtue only, Christianity set beauty adrift—as an alienated, arbitrary, superficial enchantment. And beauty has continued to lose prestige. For close to two centuries it has become a convention to attribute beauty to only one of the two sexes: the sex which, however Fair, is always Second. Associating beauty with women has put beauty even further on the defensive, morally.

A beautiful woman, we say in English. But a handsome man. “Handsome” is the masculine equivalent of—and refusal of—a compliment which has accumulated certain demeaning over-