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医学英语汉译错句分析

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秦 德 庄

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前 言

为了帮助具有初步阅读英语医学书刊能力的医务工作者、医学院校已修读完规定的英语课程的在校学生进一步提高阅读与翻译的能力，我们编写了这本《医学英语汉译错句分析》。

本书没有按一般的语法系统来阐述阅读和翻译医学英语资料的要领问题，而是根据编者在医学院多年教学实践的体会以及替医务工作者校译文章时所发现的问题，指出翻译时较常犯的若干错误，加以分析，提出正译，并附以相应的练习和答案，方便读者自学，以提高读者的阅读和翻译能力。归纳起来，主要涉及三方面的问题：词义的选择、语法结构和英汉语表达上的差异。

本书的英语例句和练习绝大部分源自英美医学文献和教科书。书中有些例句和练习，观点可能不一定正确，在书中引出仅是作为强调某种语法结构或汉语表达上的差异，请读者在阅读时注意。全书已在《国外医学（内科学分册）》连载。这次出版，根据实际需要和读者的意见作了较大的修改，并由中山大学卢守荣老师对全书作了审校。

由于编者水平所限，书中难免有不少不妥和错误之处，希望专家和读者不吝指正。

编 者

一九八二年十月

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第一讲 词义选择问题

初学翻译时，常会遇到这种情况：往往句子结构并不复杂，用词也不深，就是意思拿不准，不知道如何理解和翻译才好。究竟症结在哪里呢？这往往是由于对词义没有准确地掌握。现先看下面句子及其译文。

① At present, no information is **available** on the biologic importance of this material in man.

现在对人身上的这些物质从生物学重要上加以利用，还无报告。

② These **episodes** are repeated fairly regularly every other day in this common form of malaria.

这些插曲在普通疟疾是每隔一天有规律地重复一次。

③ Under these circumstances contamination of syringe or needle with the virus is **responsible**.

在这种情况下，注射器或针头对这种病毒污染是有责任的。

上列句子译得不恰当的原因就在于对句中某些词语（用黑体表示）的意义未弄清楚。现在先讨论这问题。第①句中，**available** 一词的基本词义是“可用的，合用的，可得到的，可达到的。”在本句中应为“可得到的”，而不是“可用的”意思。因此这句的正确翻译应为：目前仍未有关于这种物质在人类生物学上重要性的任何资料。

当我们遇到像 **available** 这样的多义词时，就要先体会原文句子的意思，然后选择和决定用哪一个词义才适合，最后才用通顺的汉语把原意翻译出来。这里再用 **available** 进一步举例说明。要注意这一词通常在句中充当表语，也可作定语。作定语

时，往往以后置定语的模式出现。

Two to three liters of 5% glucose or normal saline may be used initiately if plasma is not available.

若无血浆，开始即可用2,000~3,000毫升5%葡萄糖或生理盐水。

when cultures are available, antibiotics are chosen according to sensitivity studies.

细菌培养后，再根据药敏试验选用抗菌素。

An oral tablet of folic acid has been developed but is not generally available as yet.

叶酸口服片剂已有生产，但尚未普遍应用。

The patient should be encouraged to drink adequate quantities of fluids so that sufficient water will be available in the intestinal tract for passage of intestinal contents.

应鼓励患者饮足量的饮料，使肠道得到充足的水分，以利肠内容物通过。

A solution of adrenaline 1:1,000 should be immediately available.

应该准备1:1,000肾上腺素溶液以便随时应用。

Although the long-term benefits of iron depletion therapy have not been completely established, available data indicate that the course of the disease may be favorably altered.

虽然耗铁疗法的远期效果还未充分肯定，但现有资料表明，此法可使病程发生令人鼓舞的改观。

Buffered aspirin usually available contains only small amounts of antacid.

通常市售的缓冲片阿司匹林只含少量抗酸剂。

Androgenic steroids are the only agents currently available that are effective in stimulating the marrow to

make new cells, particularly red cells.

雄性类固醇是目前唯一能够得到的对刺激骨髓生成新细胞(尤其红细胞)有效的药物。

第②句中, episode 这个词, 字典中的意思是“插曲、事件”, 指一系列事件中一个事件, 或文艺作品中一段情节。用于医学英语则表示“发病, 发作”, 因此在翻译时, 就应该根据句子的意思, 选择适当的词义。这句的正确译法是:

这种常见疟疾反复发作, 相当有规律, 隔天一次。

请再看几个补充例句:

The frequency of bleeding episodes is variable.

出血发生的频度不一。

A few cases survive the acute attack only to die from further repeated episodes of acute necrosis.

少数病人急性发作后存活, 却因为急性坏死再次反复出现而死亡。

In some cases, chronic parenchymal liver diseases may be attributable to a previous episode of acute hepatic disease.

有某些病例, 慢性实质性肝病可归因于先前急性肝病(发作)。

There may be a history of alcoholic intake or a heavy meal immediately preceeding the attack, or a history of similar, mild episodes in the past.

发作前不久, 可能有饮酒或暴食史, 或从前有过较轻的类似的病史。

The diarrhea was not bloody and ranged from several soft bowel movements to multiple watery episodes daily.

腹泻是指不带血、一天数次稀便或多次水样大便。

有些英语词汇用于医学专业时, 有其特别词义, 翻译时我们要加以注意。下面略举一些常用词的一般词义和在医学专业中的词义, 大家可作比较:

episode	插曲, 事件; (医)发病, 发作
control	控制, 支配; (医)对照
vector	动力; (医)疾病媒介物
indication	指示, 迹象; (医)适应症
subject	科目, 题目; (医)患者, 受检者
counteract	反作用, 抵抗; (医)拮抗作用
delivery	传递; (医)分娩
attack	攻击, 侵犯; (医)发作, 发病
exploration	探索, 探测; (医)探查, 探查术
regimen	政体, 制度; (医)疗法
differentiation	区别; (医)鉴别
operation	操作, 运转; (医)手术
complaint	抱怨; (医)疾病
treatment	待遇, 处理; (医)治疗, 疗程

第③句中, *responsible* 这一形容词义是“有责任的, 负责的”, 其名词 *response* 的意思是“回答, 响应”, 动词 *respond* 的意思为“响应, 作答”。翻译时, 如果把其词义从字典中照搬, 逐字翻译, 句子虽然译出来了, 但可能词不达意, 甚至有时令人觉得不知所云。要译好这样的句子一方面对原句要有正确了解, 另方面还要根据表达的需要和汉语的习惯, 把词义引伸。

第③句的正确译法是: 在这种情况下, 原因是注射器或针头被病毒污染。

下面, 我们就这几个词的词义引伸, 再举几例:

responsible (for, to): 负责任的; 起作用的; 引起…的; 导致…的。

The basic cause is not known, and multiple factors may be responsible.

基本病因未明, 可能由多种因素引起。

Despite the lack of concrete evidence, allergy is probably responsible for hepatic disease caused by some drugs.

虽然尚缺乏具体证据，但某些药物引起的肝病也许是通过变态反应而产生的。

There are probably several factors **responsible for** water and salt retention and ascites in hepatic disease.

引起肝病患者水、盐潴留和腹水的因素可能不止一个。

His symptoms were **responsible to** self-therapy with yogurt.

他的症状是由于用酸乳酪作自我治疗而引起的。

response (to): 反应; 疗效

in response to: 应…的要求; 由于…引起。

Response to therapy is a valuable index.

对治疗的反应是有价值的指征。

With proper treatment, the clinical **response** is good.

治疗适当，临床效果良好。

For maximum **response** the drug is administered as an initial dose of 15~20ml/kg over a period of 1~2 hours, then 1/2 the dose every 12 hours for the next 3 days.

为了取得最佳疗效，开始剂量在1~2小时内给予15~20毫升/公斤，然后3天内，每12小时再予半量。

These cysts are formed in **response to** high levels of circulating chorionic gonadotropin.

囊肿是由于血液中绒毛膜促性腺激素水平高而形成。

For many years it has been customary to measure the secretion of the stomach in **response to** some stimulus such as a gruel meal.

多年来，测定胃液分泌对某刺激物（如粥）的反应，已经成为惯例。

respond (to):

The patient who **responded** showed an increase in platelet count a week after the first injection.

有疗效的病人血小板数目于第一次注射后一周即升高。

Most patients respond well to chemotherapy or x-ray therapy, and long periods of remission are the rule.

大多数患者对化学疗法或放射疗法反应良好，一般均可获得长时间的缓解。

Of these four patients only patient 3 had ever responded to steroids and she required 60 mg of prednisolone a day to obtain a satisfactory platelet count.

4个患者中只有例3用类固醇有疗效，她每天用60毫克泼尼松龙，就可取得满意的血小板数值。

The deficiency of liver disease does not respond to vit. K.
由肝病引起的缺乏症，维生素K治疗无效。

翻译练习

(1) The ulcer may come to notice as an acute episode with bleeding or perforation with little or no previous history.

(2) Between the episodes the bowel rhythm may be normal.

(3) Some patients with the disease may have frequent episodes of jaundice, enlargement of the liver and spleen, recurrent bouts of fever, joint pain, and occasional abdominal pain.

(4) The stimuli believed to be responsible for secretion are vagal and humoral.

(5) Since little is known about the factors which are responsible for the development of malignant disease, little can be done to prevent its occurrence.

(6) Acid can also be secreted in response to the pre-

ence of food in the stomach and it is probable that there is a hormone gastrin, responsible for this action.

(7) This hyperemia may represent a non-specific response to inflammation and apparently is reversible when the inflammation subsides.

(8) The hemolytic anemia of cirrhosis does not respond to any specific measures nor to corticosteroid therapy.

(9) For injection, Baralgin is available in ampoules of 2ml and 5ml, and in a multidose container of 10 ml.

(10) Intramuscular use of neomycin has declined since more appropriate agents have become available.

(11) The evidence available does not give clear support to the use of fluoride as a prenatal supplement for caries prevention in children.

第二讲 BEFORE, UNTIL, WHILE 的译法

在翻译过程中，常常会遇到一些十分显浅的词，若我们不仔细思考，自以为是，随意译来，往往会译错或译不好。

我们这里谈三个词。通过这三个词的处理和翻译，应该引起我们对翻译类似的词的注意。

BEFORE

It took some sixty years of study before the scientists found out how the worms pass from person to person.

误译：科学家查明寄生虫如何由人传给人以前，需要60年的研究。

正译：科学家花了60多年的时间进行研究才了解寄生虫如何由人传给人。

before 作连词时表示：“在……之前” (earlier than the time when)，引出时间状语从句。译时不能一概译为“在…之前”。一般来说可分三种情况：

1. 译为“在…之前”

The first discovery of the virus Asian flu was made in China before the disease had appeared in other countries.

流感在别的国家出现之前，在中国首先发现亚洲流感病毒。

The cure for malaria was found long before science learned the cause.

早在科学了解疟疾的病因之前，人们已发现治疗疟疾的方法。

In many gastric carcinoma is wide-spread before symptoms are apparent; in a fortunate few a slow growth may

progress over years and be resectable even at a late date.

大多数消化性癌症病人症状未明显表现出来以前已广泛扩散,只有少数幸运者肿瘤缓慢发展好几年,甚至到晚期仍可切除。

Under the age of two appendicitis is not common, but of those children who have it, a relatively large proportion will have perforated appendicitis before they are seen by a physician.

阑尾炎在两岁以下儿童并不常见,但这些儿童若患此症,相的患儿当多在未就诊前已有穿孔性阑尾炎。

2. 把从句作主句译,译为“...才...”

Two or three days may elapse before the typical features of lobar consolidation appear.

两三天过去后,肺实变的典型特征才出现。

In such condition a considerable time may elapse before the oxygen store of the blood is completely exhausted.

在这种情况下,可能在相当长时间后血液中氧的储存才完全耗尽。

Cerebro-spinal meningitis, for example, takes only one to five days after injection before symptoms and signs appear.

例如,脑脊髓膜炎注射1到5天后症状和体征才出现。

3. 转译为其他状语,表示例如目的,结果或方式等等。

Public health workers around the world are doing all they can to destroy malaria before the mosquitoes that pass on the disease become resistant to the poison now used against them.

全世界的公共卫生医务人员正竭尽全力消灭疟疾,以免传播疟疾的蚊子对现用治蚊药物产生抗药性。

Before the great outbreak of influenza ended, it had killed at least 15 million people.

这次流感大流行还未结束,就夺去至少一千五百万人的生命。

Each health worker receives from one to two months of training before given field work.

每个卫生人员接受1~2个月训练后才实地分派工作。

UNTIL

And then we realized that until now our attitude had been, let the patient come to us. Now we know that we must go to the patient.

误译:我们终于认识到,直到现在我们的态度一直是让病人上门来找我们。现在我们知道,我们必须走出去找病人。

正译:我们终于认识到,以前我们的态度一直是让病人找上门来,现在我们知道,应该送医上门。

These substances will not nourish the body until they are digested.

误译:这些物质直到被消化还不能营养身体。

正译:这些物质在被消化之后,才能营养身体。

A patient was not considered to be afebrile until all temperatures recorded sequentially for 48 hours were less than 37.2°C.

误译:病人不被认为无热,直到连续48小时全部体温记载低于摄氏37.2度。

正译:连续48小时,全部体温记录均低于摄氏37.2度,病人才被认为无发热。

从上面三句来看,until可能是介词或连接词,意思是“直到…为止”(up to the time that),表示谓语的动作或状态持续到until所指的时间才结束。也就是说,在until所指的时间前,该动作或状态一直在延续。因此在翻译时不能一律译为“直到…为止”,要根据句子的具体意思,相应译为“在…以前”,“…才…”等。例如:

1. 译为“...直到...”，“...直到...以前”

Arterial blood gas values should be repeated every 30 minutes until improvement is established.

动脉血气值每30分钟测定一次，直到病情改善为止。

The process of growth goes on until a whole pollution of germs spreads over an infected wound or into the bloodstream.

细菌生长过程不断继续，直到整群细菌布满感染的伤口或进入血流。

Once the condition is diagnosed, patients with diabetes must be hospitalized until their blood-sugar levels can be controlled.

一旦确诊，糖尿病患者必须住院治疗，直到血糖水平控制在正常范围为止。

2. 译为“在...之前”，“在...之后”

Many patients require and expect a modified bland diet until they are free of symptoms.

许多患者在症状消失前，都要求并期待刺激性小的食物。

When joints are swollen and painful, and signs of severe constitutional disturbances are present, the patient should be confined to bed until these signs and symptoms begin to subside.

当关节肿胀疼痛，并有严重全身性障碍，这些体征及症状开始消退前，病人必须卧床。

当关节肿胀疼痛并有严重全身性障碍，要等这些体征及症状消退后，病人才能起床。

If the diagnosis is delayed until classic symptoms appear, survival rate following surgery is probably no more than 7 per cent.

如果典型症状出现后才作出诊断，术后存活率可能不超过

7 %。

3. 译为“要…才…”或“直到…才…”

Treatment has had little to offer in this disease until recently.

到了最近，治疗对此病才有较大的效果。

Bacteria were observed almost three centuries ago, their significance in the production of disease was not established until the brilliant work of Louis Pasteur almost 100 years ago.

人们约3世纪前就观察到细菌，但直到约一百年前路易士·巴斯德的光辉著作发表后，才明确细菌在疾病产生上的重要意义。

High blood pressure is a notoriously silent disease. Usually it isn't detected until a doctor spots it by measuring a patient's blood pressure.

高血压是众所周知的不易察觉的疾患。通常要医生量病人的血压后才能查出此病。

WHILE

Some patients may require only one shot a day, while others take four or five.

误译：当其他病人需要注射四或五次时，有些病人仅需每天注射一次，

正译：有些病人仅需要每天注射一次，而另一些病人则要四或五次。

1. 在句中是等立连词

在这种情况下 while 意思是“而”，相当于 whereas，表示两句之间的对比或对照关系。while 可用于第一分句，也可用于第二分句。如用于第二分句，往往在 while 前用逗号，译成汉语时，要把 while 放在第二分句句首来翻译。例如：

Seasonal or recurrent attacks are the rule in young

people while chronic, progressive asthma is common in older individuals.

季节性哮喘发病或反复发作是年青人的惯例，而慢性进行性哮喘则常见于老年人。

By convention it is usual to confine to use of the words disinfection and disinfectant to substances such as lysol and other corrosive phenotic compounds, while antiseptis and antiseptic are used for substances such as antiseptic dyes.

通常“消毒”和“消毒剂”这两个名称习惯用于如来苏和其他腐蚀性酚化合物，而“防腐”和“防腐剂”则用于防腐染料这一类物质。

While undernutrition and malnutrition are common disorders in the developing countries, obesity is the most common nutritional disorder in affluent societies.

营养不足和营养不良是发展中国家常见疾患，而肥胖则是富裕社会最常见的营养性疾病。

2. 也可作从属连词

此时 while 相当于“though”一词用法。它引导一让步从句，在内容上来说，与主句意思相反。可置于句首，句末或句中。翻译时按汉语习惯，一般均译于主句前。例如：

While bacteria are responsible for many diseases of man and animals, it is important to recognize that only relatively few bacteria are capable of producing disease.

虽然人类或动物的许多疾病是由细菌引起的；但只有少数细菌可引起疾病，认识这一点十分重要。

Some doctors now prescribe aspirin for certain coronary patients while there is no firm scientific evidence that the drug reduces the risk of heart attack.

尽管尚未有严格的科学证据表明阿司匹林降低心脏病的危险