



新世纪高等教育
英语类课程规划教材

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英语口语译教程

A Training Course for Interpretation

主编 杨筱霞



大连理工大学出版社
DALIAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY PRESS



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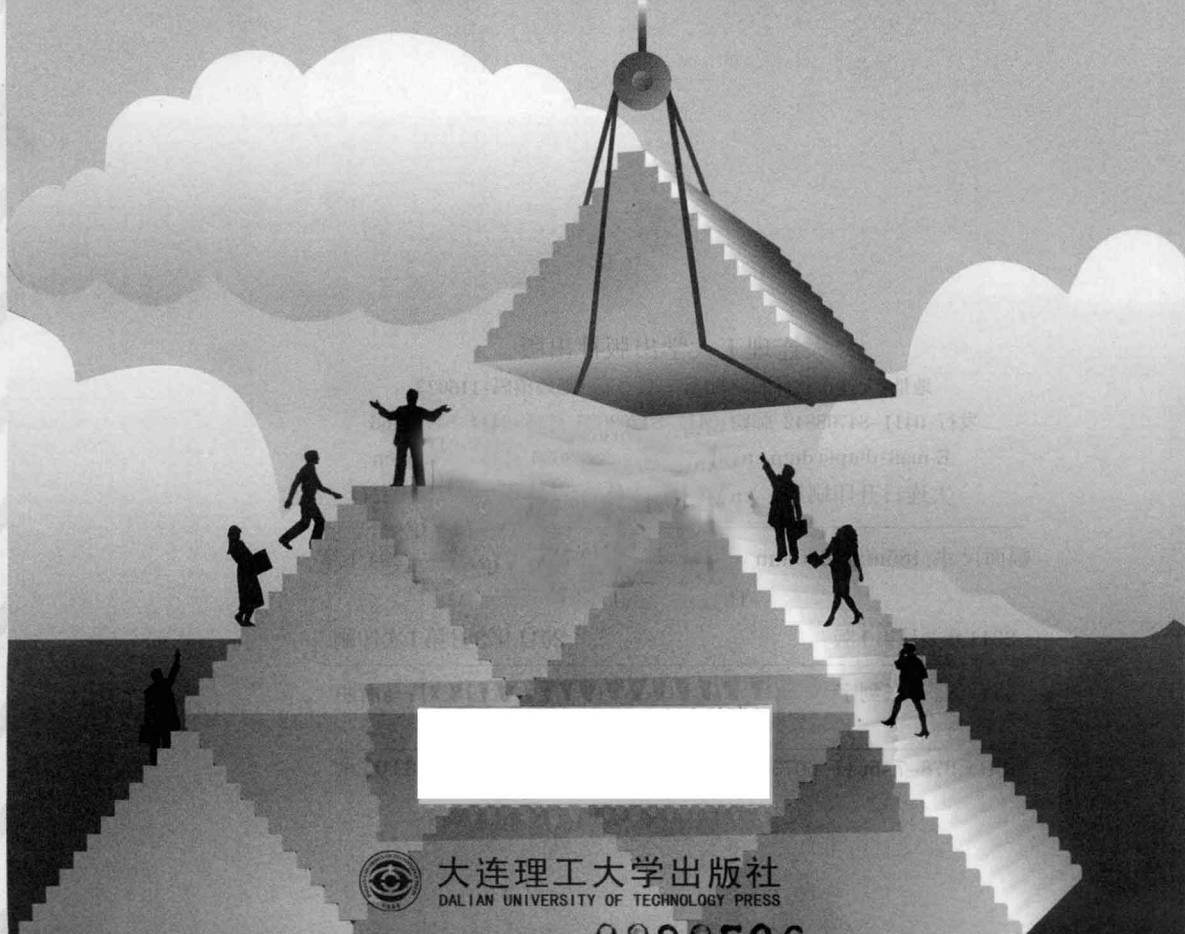
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前言

口译是一个复杂的心理过程,包括信息接收、解码、记忆、编码、表达五个阶段,广东外语外贸大学仲伟合教授(2007)指出译员的知识结构为: $KI=KL+EK+S(P+AP)$,即译员知识=双语知识+百科知识+技能(职业技能+艺术表达技能)。百科知识是指译员需掌握的专题知识,职业技能包括记忆、笔记、信息综述与重组、译前准备等,艺术表达技能是以科学的手段,艺术性地完成口译过程的技能,如口译的应对策略就属于艺术表达技能的范畴。

口译教学是集口译理论、口译技巧、专题训练、技能训练于一体的综合训练过程。近十年来,随着本科翻译专业和翻译硕士学科的建立,国内许多高校相继开始了较为专业的口译教学,相关的口译教材也层出不穷,但针对应用型本科英语专业学生编写的口译教材目前在我国基本上属于空白。

应用型本科英语专业在培养模式上,以适应社会需要为目标;以培养技术应用能力为主线设计培养方案,提高学生的知识、能力和素质结构;以“应用”为主旨和特征构建课程和教学内容体系。针对这类学生开设的口译课程重点在于提高学生的听说和语言运用能力,同时教授一些基本口译技巧,在语言、知识和口译技巧三个方面帮助学生得到加强。针对这类学生编写的口译教材力求做到科学性、实用性和实践性的统一,其中实践性是落脚点。

《英语口语教程》分上、下两篇。其中,口译理论和方法被集中安排在上篇,主要是结合相关实例进行口译理论知识的介绍和技巧点拨。循序渐进地引导学生掌握口译中常用的几种基本技巧,对于口译有个整体上的认识和了解。

下篇主要是分话题进行口译实践,选择的话题首先从学生比较熟悉的,如体育、文化、旅游、科技、社会问题等入手,最后逐渐过渡到在口译实践中最常出现的政治、经济等话题。各个主题的选择、设计和安排一方面考虑到学生扩展知识面的需要,让学生了解到最新的社会、文化和科学知识;另一方面,又不过深入地涉及专业知识,以控制教材难度。下篇每个章节首先列出与话题相关的词汇和惯用表达,以减轻学生在专有词汇方面的压力,建议学生在课前将要出现的生词、难词或术语做好预习。授课教师在使用本教材过程中,应考虑到授课对象的英语水平,让学生逐步适应听、记、译这一过程。

为了让学生有身临其境的体验,本教材配有中、英文MP3音频,授课教师可以有选择性地选取其中的片段让学生试译。课堂上教师可采取交替传译的方式,让学生

边听边记,然后大家同时低声口译所听到的汉语或英语句子,以确保每个学生每次都有口译机会。由于学生英语语言水平的差异性以及不同的人在遣词造句上都各有不同,因此课堂上课下对同一段语言材料的小组或全班练习,可以让学生之间有比较和借鉴,能够加深对材料的理解。同时,在点评学生的口译表现时,教师可以针对误译、用词不当等情况作讲解并加以强调,以加深学生印象。

本教材由国内多所普通高校的一线教师编写,由广东纺织职业技术学院杨筱霞任主编,赣南师范学院邓庆玲、广东纺织职业技术学院华海燕、广东纺织职业技术学院邓沙琪任副主编,浙江水利水电专科学校段红鹰、赣南师范学院李坊剑及广东省环境保护工程职业技术学校丘素莉参与了编写。在教材编写过程中我们得到大连理工大学出版社以及各位编者所在院校的大力支持,在此,一并表示感谢。

由于时间仓促,加之编者水平有限,不足之处在所难免,敬请广大读者和使用本教材的同行专家批评指正。

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编者

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Chapter 1

Introduction to Interpretation

I. The development of interpretation

Interpreting is a type of translation, an act of rendering spoken words from one language into another. Interpreting has a recorded history of several thousand years. In China, as early as in the Zhou Dynasty, there were interpreters who worked for the government. However, interpreting, as an internationally-recognized profession, is rather young. Before the 20th century, almost all important international meetings were held exclusively in French, as French was the only recognized language of diplomacy; thus, no interpreters were needed. Nonetheless, around the turn of the 20th century, political, cultural and economic exchanges among different nations increased tremendously; consequently more languages became involved in international exchanges, and French gradually lost its dominant position. Professional interpreting made its first appearance at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, which marked the beginning of interpreting as a modern profession. Since then, interpreting has become virtually an essential part of every international conference.

II. The two most widely-used forms of interpretation

Professional interpreting is a service activity with a communication function. The purposes of communication may vary with the occasions; different occasions may require different types of interpreting. Generally speaking, there are two types of interpreting: consecutive interpreting (CI) and simultaneous interpreting (SI).

Consecutive interpretation, which requires no well-equipped booths and sophisticated wiring system, is the most widely used form of interpretation in China on various occasions—ranging from formal talks to negotiations. In the consecutive mode, the interpreter gives his interpretation immediately after the speaker has finished a segment of speech. The segments may last from a few seconds to several minutes. Since the speaker pauses from time to time for the interpreter to interpret each segment of the speech, the interpreter has the time to take notes and analyze the message as a whole so that he can understand the message more easily.

Simultaneous interpretation, which occupies no time apart from that taken by the original speaker but requires rather expensive and highly sophisticated sets of electronic equipment, is increasingly needed at international meetings and conferences where a large number of countries are represented. In the simultaneous mode, the speaker speaks continuously into a microphone, which transmits his/her voice to the earphones of the interpreter, and almost concurrently the interpreter gives the interpretation of the message by speaking to her own microphone, which, in turn, transmits the interpreter's voice to the audience who chooses to listen to that language. This form of interpretation is used at the following types of meetings:

- (1) Discussion or negotiations, where speakers speak “off the cuff”.
- (2) Formal speeches, mostly of a general or political nature, which may or may not be read from a prepared manuscript.
- (3) Technical and scientific papers which are almost always read.
- (4) Lectures which are normally prepared writing.

III. Basic qualities required of the interpreters

1. A strong sense of duty

An interpreter's strong sense of duty always finds expression in two respects. First, he is most particular about being conscientious—conscientious in pre-conference preparations, conscientious in following the original speaker and furnishing the best possible rendition, conscientious in abiding by the “professional ethics” and the relevant rules and regulations, etc. Second, he has a conscious and persistent desire to improve his competence; for him the training in interpretation is a never-ending process.

2. Linguistic proficiency

Linguistic proficiency, in the context of interpretation, means primarily a fairly good command of the languages involved and a good grasp of the cultures of the languages involved. Specifically, it means acute hearing, exceptionally large vocabulary, precision and flexibility of expression, good articulation and elocution. And, in this connection, the importance of constant exposure to different varieties of English spoken and written by native speakers and constant exposure to various relevant publications in Chinese cannot be overemphasized.

3. Encyclopedic knowledge

Encyclopedic knowledge is a goal towards which the conscientious interpreter or translator should work untiringly. A competent interpreter must have some knowledge in all the multifarious fields with which he deals, and the level of that knowledge must be adequate for understanding. And it can be accepted as a rule that an interpreter's extralinguistic inadequacy always leads to obscure or meaningless or even erroneous interpretation. Given the required language proficiency, the greater the interpreter's knowledge of the subject matter, the more readily understanding occurs, and the more accurate and intelligible his output in the target language.

4. Acute hearing

An interpreter should be aware that to hear in interpreting is not merely to know all the words that are being spoken. It is imperative to grasp the idea of the original while listening, no matter how complex the subject matter is, how unusual the original speaker's style or accent or intonation might be. An interpreter should be soberly aware that with extremely rare exceptions only what is

clearly heard and grasped can be properly rendered into the target language.

5. A good articulation

The interpreter's articulation and elocution should be reasonably good. He should be careful not to swallow part of his words. He should moreover see to it that his voice should carry well and be pleasant to hear. In short, he should form the good habit of speaking distinctly and naturally, and take care never to sound affected.

6. Familiarity with simultaneous note-taking

A good interpreter must, of necessity, be good at note-taking. He should learn to be able to concentrate on listening to grasp the speaker's idea while jotting down a few key words in the meantime, usually with each word (or sign, or symbol) representing a sense group or a figure (or a proper name, etc.). And the object of note-taking is mainly to supplement memory efficiency, so as to ensure accuracy in interpreting.

7. A good memory

Two things are usually expected of an interpreter's memory. First, it should store up an exceptionally large vocabulary including the relevant specialized terms and a great wealth of relevant important formulations along with the corresponding correct translation in the target language. Second, it should accurately absorb and retain the idea (the series of ideas) just expressed by the speaker. This kind of ability can be cultivated in an intensive process of practice.

8. Quick and accurate response

It refers mainly to speediness and accuracy in completing the process of understanding—transference—speaking on the part of the interpreter. Here accuracy is stated side by side with speediness to rule out the tendency of too much of a hurry to do the interpretation on the part of the beginners. Practice proves time and again that overeagerness or foolhardiness is a vice which should be avoided in interpreting.

Exercise 1

Direction: Listen to the recording and interpret the following passage from English into Chinese. You may take notes while you are listening. You will hear the passage only once. Now let's begin.

Wales has always been an outward looking nation. A great trading nation exporting materials like iron and coal, whilst through our ports have come remarkable treasures, including fine porcelains from China.

Today I want to talk about how Wales—a country of just three million people—can join you in China—five hundred times bigger—in partnership, and offer you our commitment and expertise.

When I first visited the Perl River Delta in 1980 there was little industrial development. Earlier this week I had sight of the remarkable economic powerhouse that region has become. The rapid development of this area which is now responsible for the production of forty percent of the world's microwaves, and seventy percent of the world's photocopiers, is awesome.

China is already the sixth largest economy in the world; it is the fastest growing economy in the world, and is set to be the largest in the new twenty or thirty years. Over the past 3 years, China has added more to world output than the G7 countries put together.

This remarkable growth should be celebrated as an opportunity and not a threat to nations like the United Kingdom. China's success is bringing benefits for global markets. Rather like China, the enlargement of European Union is an opportunity and a challenge for Welsh business, not a threat. Ten new countries join next month, creating a single market of some 450 million consumers, bigger and richer than the two biggest economies in the world, the USA and Japan combined.

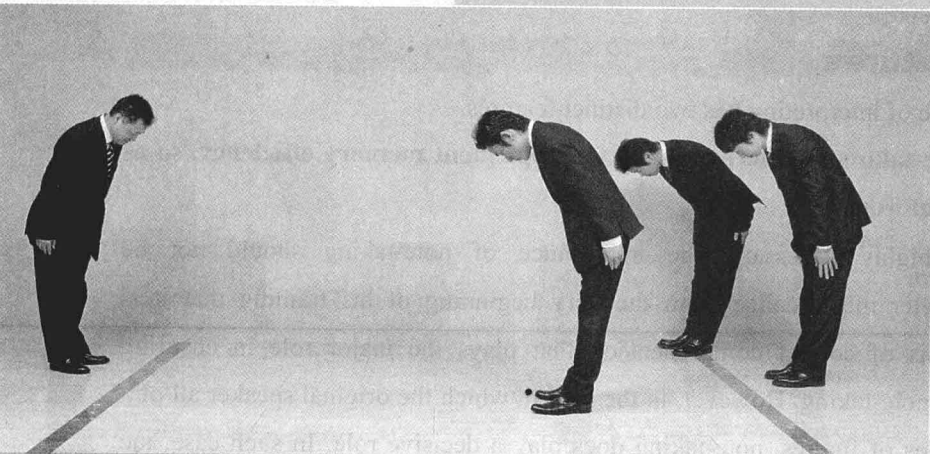
Exercise 2

Direction: Listen to the recording and interpret the following passage from Chinese into English. You may take notes while you are listening. You will hear the passage only once. Now let's begin.

现在许多大城市不堪入目。街道上满是乱丢乱放的垃圾,而在这些垃圾里,仍有一些有用的东西。如果人们想解决废物问题,已经是时候了。必须研究出一些再利用的方法,重新利用被丢弃的有用之物。如不能再行驶的旧汽车,车上的金属还是好的,这些金属可以重新利用。还有废弃在垃圾里的空瓶子,玻璃瓶可以被磨成沙来铺路。食物垃圾可以变成肥料,但首先你得捡出所有的玻璃和金属。垃圾也是制造带有混凝土外壳的建筑块的好原材料,现在,越来越多的机器为此意图而设计。将来某一天,人们有可能在用垃圾制成的宏伟的电影院里看电影。将来的建筑物、公路和城市都可能用垃圾制成。但到目前为止,用废物建造美丽的城市还只是一个梦想。

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Chapter 2

Note-taking

I. Introduction

A key skill that is involved in interpreting is note-taking, because few interpreters can memorize a segment of speech delivered longer than one minute without some loss of information. Note-taking is an important tool for interpreters in consecutive interpreting and it helps interpreters reproduce the original speech accurately.

II. Two Special Features

Note-taking in the course of interpreting has two distinct features.

1. The purpose of note-taking in interpreting is to supplement memory efficiency, so as to ensure accuracy in work.

This means, though highly necessary, the importance of note-taking should not be overemphasized. An interpreter must realize from the very beginning of his training that it is always memory on the basis of correct comprehension that plays the major role in ensuring accuracy in interpreting, not note-taking. However, in the case in which the original speaker all of a sudden reads out a long series of figures, note-taking does play a decisive role. In such case, the best way is to jot down the figures speedily before interpreting (in consecutive interpretation) or while listening and interpreting (in simultaneous interpretation). Experience proves that an attempt to do long series of figures without jotting them down is always risky. Nevertheless, it is always reassuring and helpful to jot down figures, etc. Normally, this will help the interpreter to render the figures (or the long string of proper names) accurately and will help to avoid confusion or errors.

2. The interpreter's notes are essentially individual in character.

The interpreter's notes as a means to supplement his memory are intended exclusively for immediate use by the individual interpreter concerned. The ability to keep remembrance of what is said varies from person to person. Some interpreters may have a well-developed faculty for remembering details; some may be very good at recollecting the sequence of ideas; some others may be particularly familiar with the subject matter in a particular field, and so on. A number of experienced interpreters are of the view that only practical experience and repeated experiments can show a given interpreter what type of notes will be best suited for him or her.

III. Some practical hints

In note-taking, the interpreter will be well advised to be mindful of the following points:

1. Write as few words or symbols as possible.

An interpreter should always concentrate on listening (for comprehension and transference). His notes should be of such a type that each word (or symbol, or sign) usually represents a key

word or a sense group or an important formulation, etc., leaving an appropriate space between two words or symbols so written. In short, the words so written should preferably be reduced to the minimum in number.

2. Better take notes in the target language.

In order to facilitate the listening-transference-speaking process, it is preferable to solve the problems of transference while the notes are being taken. That is why most of the professional interpreters believe that it seems to be best to take notes in the target language. However, there are some exceptions. One exception might be that some expressions or phrases can be much more easily and briefly noted in one language other than the target language. Another exception might be that an interpreter who is working at the U.N. or some other international organization where over 90 percent of interpretation is into Chinese and who is particularly dexterous in taking notes in Chinese, finds it feasible to depart from the above rule. Nevertheless, generally speaking, it is better to take notes in the target language, solving nearly all the problems of transference in the meantime.

3. See to it that the notes are logical and legible.

As far as possible, the interpreter should be able to make a logical analysis of the speech that is being made and to take his notes accordingly. In this way, the speaker's flow or sequence of ideas can be better grasped and noted and therefore better interpreted. At the same time, the interpreter must see to it that his notes are legible. They must be easy to read; for the interpreter cannot afford the time to hesitate or mediate before deciphering them. With the original speech logically analyzed, the notes should preferably be written in columns of 2 or 3-inch width in a pad which is vertically long enough, so that each sense group or important formulation, etc., represented by a word or symbol in the interpreter's notes occupies one half or even one line, and that the next sense group or the beginning of the next point being made by the speaker is noted in another line—leaving enough space in between. And in the case of consecutive interpretation, it is always advisable to draw two short slanting lines to mark the end of a long paragraph or a large chunk of speech just made by the original speaker.

IV. Symbols and Abbreviations

It can be observed in professional notes that symbols and abbreviations account for a large part of note-taking. The advantage of most signs and symbols is the fact that they do not belong to any particular language and can be written in one language and read out in another without much effort, as in the case of numerals. Moreover, they save time and space.

1. Symbols from the Alphabet

Interpreters often borrow symbols from a variety of alphabets. English has 26 letters which the