

英汉翻译手册

A Handbook of Translation

(增 订 版)

钟述孔 著



商 务 印 书 馆

A HANDBOOK OF TRANSLATION

Revised and Enlarged Edition

With 25 Drills, involving some 300 sentences, on Sentence Translation and 60 Exercises of Passage Translation on a wide variety of themes

英 汉 翻 译 手 册

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钟 述 孔 著

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增订版说明

本书于一九八〇年三月出版后,从同年六月开始,作者陆续收到一些读者的来信;到年底以后收到的来信更有所增加。来信者不少是在职的年轻干部和科技人员、研究生,也有一些是大学高年级的英语专业学生。总的反应是,他们觉得此书对他们有帮助;特别是书中所体现的理论联系实际和“重实践”的路子、书中所选编的几十篇不同题材的翻译练习和所提供的参考译文,以及所介绍的基本翻译方法和翻译技巧,对他们有帮助。有些住在祖国边远地方的读者在来信中还说,他们难以看到外国的原著及外报外刊,所以他们还利用此书,作为阅读材料或“对照阅读材料”,也感到颇有收获。有些读者的刻苦精神,尤其值得钦佩;他们说,用了大半年业余时间,自己动手做完了书中的大部分练习,(有的读者还说,用一年的业余时间,基本上做完了书中的全部练习,并对照参考译文进行了检查);他们还强调:“实践出真知”的确是一条真理。

与此同时,不少读者在来信中建议,此书再版时似可增加一些较难的文章(类似书中英译汉及汉译英的最后十来个练习的难度);有些读者建议适当增加一点文学作品的翻译练习;还有的科技战线的读者就书中“Miniature Electronic Calculator: Operational Manual”译文中的个别术语,提出了改进的建议(已采纳)。对于这些热心的年轻读者和其他来信者,谨在此表示衷心的感谢。参阅读者们所提建议的精神,作

者利用业余时间对本书重新作了修订和较大的扩增，以飨读者。

作者

一九八一年八月十九日于北京

作者的话

翻译,作为“革命机器中的齿轮”,是一项重要工作,在我们的革命和建设事业中起着积极的、重要的作用。

建国以来,我国的翻译工作做出了突出的成绩。以汉译英为例,《毛泽东选集》的一卷至五卷英译本,就是高水平的代表作。同时,在英译汉方面,各条战线上的翻译工作同志也积累了很多宝贵的经验。

本书作者从事过二十多年的翻译实践,积累了一些经验和体会。我们的一个比较突出的体会是,翻译的过程,应当是运用唯物论辩证法分析矛盾、解决矛盾的过程。首先,需要通过分析的方法,认真抓好对原文的正确“理解”;这是翻译工作中的唯物论。译文究竟是正确的,还是犯了“机械主义”或“自由主义”的毛病,首先取决于是否对原著有正确的“理解”。就翻译的具体过程而言,矛盾确实不少,但我们觉得主要矛盾是译者(个人或集体)的“理解”与“表达”之间的矛盾。在从事翻译时,首先遇到的主要矛盾的主要方面,是译者对原著的“理解”是否确切。这就要求我们“钻进去”,采取分析的方法,把原文“吃透”。第二步,在求得准确理解之后,主要矛盾的主要方面常常就转化为“充分表达”这个环节了;这就要求我们“跳出来”,用另一种语言把原著的精神实质表达出来,使译文既忠于原义、又符合所译语言的习惯用法,力求达到内容与形式的统一。同时,在分析和探索“充分表达”的过程中,往往反过来又可以加深对原著的“理解”。所有这些,都反映了翻译中

的辩证法。

我们还亲身体会到,要产生出高质量的译文,决不是轻而易举的事;相反,这是很复杂、很困难的一项任务。好的翻译工作者,如同其它战线的同志一样,也需要坚持“实践出真知”的根本观点,努力用辩证唯物论指导自己的实践。还必须下苦功在实践中遵循周总理的指示,“打好三个基本功”,即政治基本功、语言(汉语和有关外语)基本功,及知识基本功。

本书就是试图就英汉、汉英翻译中的“理解”与“表达”如何求得辩证的统一,就抓好“理解”与“表达”的基本方法问题和基本翻译技巧,进行了一些典型分析,并且为此设计和汇编了三百来个典型翻译例句,以及五十多篇涉及不同题材的“篇章”翻译练习。中心的意思,是希望读者通过阅读和分析本书各章节的典型例句,特别是通过亲自动手翻译上述几十个练习,自己体会和掌握翻译中的一些基本规律和基本技巧,为今后在实践中不断提高翻译的质量,打下一个相当扎实的基础。

根据周总理生前关于抓好“三个基本功”的指示,我们还深深体会到,除了打好“政治基本功”、把心扑在工作上之外,打好“知识基本功”,不断扩大知识面,也很重要。否则,如果知识面太窄,是难以适应新时期的总任务、难以真正做好翻译工作的。最后一个十分重要之点,是打好“外语基本功”。以汉语与英语为例,这是两种完全不同的语言;作为中国同志,我们只有通过经常不断地、用心地阅读、分析和钻研各种有关体裁的原著,经常勤于动笔,不断提高英语水平,才能在翻译中较好地发挥我们汉语方面的长处,在翻译中更好地实现“理解”与“表达”的辩证的统一。同时,我们还认为,如果对英语没有一定的掌握,是不能真正产生出质量较高的译文的,特别

是汉译英的译文。这也就是说,一定要努力提高外语水平,要扎扎实实地打“三个基本功”。只有这样,才能从根本上提高翻译质量。从这个意义上说,目前我国的大专院校最好是到了高年级才进行系统的翻译训练;否则,往往会产生“中文式的英文”或“欧化汉语”,或养成把一个英文词汇与一个中文词汇机械地“划等号”等等坏习惯。因此,本书是用英文编写的;服务对象是我国涉外部门、科技战线年轻的在职翻译工作人员,教育战线年轻的英语教员和业余的年轻翻译爱好者,以及大专院校高年级的学生。

本书在编写过程中曾得到不少同志的帮助,谨在此表示诚挚的谢意。由于作者的实践有很大的局限性、知识水平也很有限,敬希广大读者多提意见,多予指正。

作 者

一九七八年九月于北京

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