

Road to Oral Interpretation 英汉口译

教程

李孚声◎编著




旅游教育出版社

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·北京·

责任编辑:王艳 张琼

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英汉口译教程/李孚声编著. —北京:旅游教育出版社,2007. 10
(英语翻译实战系列)

ISBN 978-7-5637-1562-6

I. 英… II. 李… III. 英语—口译—教材 IV. H315.9

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2007)第 164013 号

英汉口译教程

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出版单位	旅游教育出版社
地 址	北京市朝阳区定福庄南里 1 号
邮 编	100024
发行电话	(010)65778403 65728372 65767462(传真)
本社网址	www. tepcb. com
E-mail	tepx@163. com
排版单位	首都经济贸易大学出版社激光照排部
印刷单位	北京晨光印刷厂
装订单位	河北省三河市金星装订厂
经销单位	新华书店
开 本	787 × 960 1/16
印 张	15
字 数	211 千字
版 次	2008 年 1 月第 1 版
印 次	2008 年 1 月第 1 次印刷
印 数	1 - 4 000 册
定 价	28.00 元(含光盘)

(图书如有装订差错请与发行部联系)

前 言

科技的飞速发展和国际交流的日益频繁促进了外语教学,也推动了口译教材的建设。口译教材更需要时时更新,才能跟上时代的步伐。

编写本书的原则是以语言学理论为依据,以口译实际工作为目的,争取做到题材丰富、语言规范、注重技巧、讲求实效。

口译的全过程在理论上分为四个步骤,即:听懂、记住、构思、表达。听懂,也就是理解,是整个口译过程的第一步,也是关键而艰难的一步。这一步如同开汽车发动马达,如果口译工作的这部马达失灵,译员将寸步难行。译员的记忆与构思是一种双语思维方式的相互转换过程,需要人们不断摸索、坚持练习才能逐渐掌握。只有具备了积极准确的构思,译员才能流畅通顺地表达意思。这四个步骤在实际工作中是不可分割的整体。

英译汉时,译员必须全神贯注地听,努力理解讲话内容。这对于在汉语环境中学英语的学生来说,始终是极难解决的问题。即便是那些英语造诣较深的人,在口译这样紧张的场合,也不能掉以轻心。译员听英语应尽可能像听汉语一样自然、流畅,即:能够力求预测所听内容,达到听辨理解与讲话同步。译员要在讲话人开口伊始就紧跟其思路,不是逐字逐句地,而是根据一组一组的“意群”追踪搜索,以期抓住要点。从理解每一组意思的“渐悟”到抓住中心思想的“顿悟”,译员的注意力始终在讲话者。在整个听辨理解过程中,单词、句型和发音,已在译员脑中融为一体,长期储存在记忆中。此时译员要始终保持精神高度集中,不断地积极思考搜寻稍纵即逝的信息。待理解了大意之后,他要努力忘记原文结构,用日常汉语进行解释性复述。

和一名出色的口译人员在一起,讲话的人会感到不受语言的限

制,可以随心所欲地表达自己的看法。而这位译员会用最恰当的方式,把不同感情色彩和细微差别的讲话,都原原本本地传达给听者。这需要译员对两种语言有扎实的基本功。

一个理想的、称职的口译人员,还应该具备百科全书似的知识,这样才能在口译工作中运用自如、游刃有余。当然,要达到这样出神入化的理想境界非常不容易,但是我们必须朝着这个方向努力,勇于实践,敢于攻坚,才能称得上是有自觉性的、有责任感的口译人员。

在口译教材的题材和授课内容方面,也存在着是“赠人以鱼”还是“授人以渔”的问题。编写教材虽然应该力求全面,但任何教材都不可能包罗万象。口译是一门综合性技能,除了语言功底外,还包括熟悉各类语体、对于新词或专业词进行短时强记、用双语符号记录、了解文化差异,以及讲演等能力。这需要一系列辅助技巧训练。选择素材主要考虑其在学生将来工作中是否实用、题材是否适时、语言是否规范。因此,英译汉的课文主要以英语国家的人的即席讲话、电视采访和电话录音为主。

本书的开篇是有关口译过程基本规律的五篇综合性讲座,而后每段练习包括词汇预习、课文原文、参考译文三个部分。课堂教学应从实际出发,应使学生有身临其境之感。建议教师课前不发词汇表和书面材料。英译汉时的词汇预习应在学生先听一遍录音后进行。此时教师应把课文中的重要词汇摘出并用英语解释,不用汉语解释是为了培养学生用英语思维、从上下文中体会词义的能力,此时教师可介绍背景知识和专业术语,使学生从开始就养成译前强记的习惯。建议教师最后分析难点,把学生在练习中感到不易理解和不好翻译的词、短语和句型进行归纳讲解,找出规律。

使用本书需要教师不断补充新内容,时常改进教学法,使口译教学跟上时代的发展,发挥其在中外交流中应起的作用。

编者

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Lectures on Oral Interpretation

Lecture 1 Introduction

What is oral interpretation?

Oral interpretation is communication for the two persons who do not speak the same language. An interpreter works as a bridge between them when they want to get their ideas across to each other. Oral interpretation is both a skill and an art of considerable practical and esthetic value in the modern world.

Why is interpretation still needed in the modern world?

Although more and more people have learned a second language, many communicative occasions still need interpreters, such as, international conferences, symposiums, business negotiations and other diplomatic activities. Interpreters are still in great demand, because interpretation is a demanding skill which requires the interpreter to have a good command of two languages and rich knowledge in many fields. A human interpreter can never be replaced by a computer or a machine of any kind. Translation is not a mechanical thing. It's human work. Nothing can replace our brain.

Why is oral interpretation a challenging task?

Speakers of different languages use different means to meet their communicative needs. They may have same ideas, same intentions and





same emotions, but they express them in different ways. An interpreter should be very clear about both ways of communication in the two languages and be able to change from one to the other all the time.



Examples:

- 是什么风把你给吹来了? It's so nice to see you.
- 怎么! 你妈妈去世了? 什么时候? 走时多大年纪了? 得的什么病?
Oh! Your mother passed away. I'm sorry to hear that.
- The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.
心有余而力不足。
- 甲:系主任为什么要我去开会?
Why did the dean ask me to go to the meeting?
乙:你问我,我问谁去?
Your guess is as good as mine.

An interpreter should be bilingual, but a bilinguist may not be a good interpreter, because many factors are involved, such as, emotional, cultural, contextual and social factors.



Examples:

- 这儿真凉快!
It's too cold here. (in winter)
It's cool and nice here. (in summer)
- Chinese host: 这北京的汉堡包您吃着怎么样?
American guest: A hamburger is a hamburger.
Interpreter: 汉堡包还有什么两样?(汉堡包哪儿都一样。)

From a purely logical perspective, the reply in Example 2 seems to have no communicative value, since it expresses something completely





obvious, like other pointless expressions, such as

Business is business. A woman is a woman.

Boys will always be boys. Money is money.

If they are used in a conversation, clearly the speaker intends to communicate more than is said. The interpreter has to express the implicated meaning in Chinese.

Before taking an interpretation task, we have to make as full preparation as possible. Usually, we try to find many possible materials on the subject we'll work on, mainly through reading and listening. First we should get familiar with the special terms on the subject and new developments in that field. Anyhow, there is always something we should get ready all the time, such as, basic grammar, everyday vocabulary we use in communication and the major differences in culture and in the way people communicate in the two languages.





Lecture 2 English-to-Chinese Interpretation

English-to-Chinese interpretation is quite a different process from Chinese-to-English interpretation in many ways, such as, in way of thinking, emphasis and culture.

To understand the meaning of the whole English passage in general is the first step of the process. If we compare the process to a building, understanding or listening comprehension can be described as the foundation. Without this foundation, the whole building cannot be set up.



Examples:

- She is dressed to kill.
误:她穿戴好了,准备谋杀。
正:她穿得太显眼了。
- Love is blind.
误:爱情是盲目的。
正:情人眼里出西施。
- Justice is blind.
误:法律是盲目的。
正:法律面前,人人平等。
- I was told John's girlfriend is killer.
误:听说约翰的女朋友是个杀手。
正:听说约翰的女朋友漂亮得要命。

When the interpreter gets the meaning, he has to rethink it in terms of the target language—Chinese, when expressing the meaning. It is impossible to attain exact equivalences. The interpreter needs to look beyond single words, segments of sentences, or even complete sentences before he translates the passage.





Examples:

- We expected an older speaker to talk about this subject.
没想到讲这个题目的人这么年轻。
- I would feel guilty to take such an expensive gift.
收这么贵的礼物真不好意思。
- I couldn't care less for those meetings.
我才不去开那种会呢。
- His book is readable (= capable of being read with pleasure).
他写的书很有意思。
- His handwriting is strange to me.
他写的字我不认得。
- He has a weakness for fine clothes.
他很讲究衣着。
- The old man is not at home to anyone except relatives.
除了亲戚以外,老人概不见客。
- You are a sight for sore eyes.
你可来了。
- John was a fool for danger.
约翰是天不怕地不怕。
- This failure was the making of him.
这次失败其实为他的成功奠定了基础。
- Your father and I are on the first name basis, so don't put on airs, son!
你爸爸和我是至交了,孩子,你摆什么架子!
- He is ignorant to a proverb.
他的无知是有名的。
- He did not see the movie out.
他没看完电影就走了。





- We went away as wise as we came.
我们走的时候跟来的时候一样,什么都不懂。
- Catch me doing that again!
我绝不会干这种事情。
- Although our country is economically better off than ever before, it has a way to go.
尽管我国的经济情况比以前好转,但仍有待进一步发展。

Most errors made by an interpreter come from the failure to understand the general meaning of the whole sentence. The following errors are taken from translated TV dramas:

1. You have a visitor.
有人来了。(误:你有个来访者。)
2. Give me a break!
你快算了吧!(误:让我休息一会儿吧。)
3. You are right.
你说得对。(误:你是对的。)
4. I sometimes daydream to relax.
有时我什么都不做,完全放松。(误:有时候我做白日梦,放松一下。)
5. I won't hurt you.
我不会让你不高兴的。(误:我不会伤害你的。)
6. Tom is a failure.
汤姆到现在一事无成。(误:汤姆是个失败者。)



E  **1**
xercise

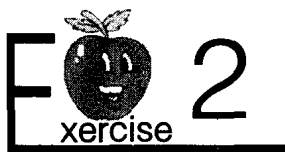
(You will hear two versions of translation for a sentence and tell which one is more faithful in meaning.)

1. She is only telling a white lie.
 - a. 她只不过是说白色谎言。
 - b. 她是在撒谎,但也是出于好意。
2. Earthquake struck the area on the same day.
 - a. 同天,那个地方再次发生了地震。
 - b. 同天,地震又袭击了那个地方。
3. She is on a paid vocation in Hainan Province.
 - a. 她是在海南带薪休假的。
 - b. 她是公费到海南度假的。
4. She comes from a very poor family.
 - a. 她来自一个十分贫穷的家庭。
 - b. 她出身贫寒。
5. North Canada, a land untouched by men.
 - a. 加拿大北方,一个人迹罕至的地方。
 - b. 加拿大北方,一个还未遭破坏的地方。
6. Her husband is a hard-hearted man.
 - a. 她丈夫是个冷酷无情的人。
 - b. 她丈夫有一颗铁石般的心。
7. East or west, home is the best.
 - a. 东跑西跑,还是家里最好。
 - b. 金窝银窝不如自家草窝。
8. This woman looks very much like a bad woman. The way she stands tells you that.
 - a. 这个女人看来很像是个坏女人,她的姿势说明了这一点。
 - b. 这个女人看来不是好人,一看她的站相儿就知道。
9. A living dog is better than a dead lion.
 - a. 好死不如赖活着。





- b. 活狗胜于死狮子。
10. A clear conscience is a soft pillow.
- a. 问心无愧,躺下就睡。
- b. 白天不做亏心事,半夜不怕鬼叫门。



Things That We Are Worried About

(The world today is full of problems. We asked three people about the kind of things that concern them.)

- A: Well, there's so much to be worried and concerned about, isn't there? I'm very worried about the way the world's population is growing. I mean, where are we going to find food for everybody? I also care about a lot about what is happening to the tropical rain forests, and to the Indian tribes who live in them. You hear and read the most terrifying stories, don't you? I think we all have to care about and care for our environment. It's our future after all.
- B: What do I care about most? Myself and my family, of course. I know I'm not being selfish, but I am always concerned about where the next meal is coming from. I also care very much about my children's education. People just don't seem to give education the care and attention that it used to have. And when you're like us and don't have much money to throw around, you care a lot about those things that affect your day-to-day life: health care, housing, social welfare, your job, that sort of thing. Do you know what I mean?
- C: Well, I get worried about inflation and the value of the money I earn. It always seems to be worth less and less. I feel terrible when I read about all these wars going on and the suffering that they cause. I care a lot about children. They should always have the best, but so often they don't. I'm also deeply concerned about the effects of pollution on our lives. With all this industry here these days, it's not really safe to breathe. Lots of people are complaining about it, but nobody seems to be doing anything to improve the situation.

