

大 学 英 语

# 实用翻译技巧

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霍海洪 王平山 编写

轻松过四级丛书

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实用翻译技巧



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## 致 读 者

翻译是英语学习“听”、“说”、“读”、“写”、“译”诸技巧中十分重要的一项内容。《大学英语教学大纲》明确提出：“大学英语教学的目的是培养学生具有较强的阅读能力、一定的听和译的能力以及初步的写和说的能力。”应该说，学习外语，势必涉及到翻译。然而，多年来，由于大学英语四级考试一直采用标准化考试形式，大学英语教学只是片面地追求四级考试通过率，大搞应试教学，从而普遍忽视了学生翻译技能的培养与训练，致使学生综合运用英语的能力得不到提高，大大影响了教学质量。为了增强学生实际运用英语的能力，避免应试教学，完善大学英语四、六级考试，全国大学英语四、六级考试委员会已在 1995 年决定对四级考试进行改进，增加了翻译(Translation)等题型，使大学英语教学得到了更进一步的完善。

为了配合大学英语教学，提高学生的翻译能力，帮助学生顺利通过大学英语四级考试，我们特编写了这本《大学英语实用翻译技巧》，奉献给广大读者，以期能对大家翻译能力的提高有所帮助。

本书不求高深抽象的翻译理论讲述，而是注重“实用”。编者从大学英语教学的可行性、学生的英语水平以及四级考试试题的难度出发，先对一些基本的翻译技巧进行了系统的阐述，之后对常见英汉多功能词的翻译和常见英汉句型、结构的翻译进行了详尽的阐释，最后对学生常犯的翻译错误进行了剖析并设计了一些翻译练习供大家实践。总之，本书追求讲练并举、有的放矢、立杆见影之目的。本书不仅适用于非英语专业的学生，而且也适用于英语专业的学生及英语自学者，同时，对广大英语教师也有一定的参考价值。

诚然,本书中的讲解、设计的练习甚至为每句英文配置的参考译文都不能说尽善尽美,因此,我们希望广大读者和英语教师多提宝贵意见,以使我们不断改进。谢谢!

**编 者**

**1999年4月于南京**

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# 第一章 词法翻译技巧

## 第一节 词义选择

词义选择是翻译过程中首先要遇到的问题。无论是英语还是汉语,一词多义(一字多义)都是常见的语言现象。一般说来,越是常用的字和词语,就越是具有多种释义和搭配,就越灵活多变。同样一个简单的字或词语,在不同的上下文中,就可能含有不同的意义。因此,在翻译过程中,我们在弄清原句结构后,要根据具体的上下文来判断某一个字或词语的意义,从而选择和确定原句中关键词的词义。

请看下列这段英文:

“I got on horseback within ten minutes after I got your letter. When I got to Canterbury, I got a chaise for town, but I got wet through, and have got such a cold that I shall not get rid of it in a hurry. I got to the Treasury about noon, but first of all got shaved and dressed. I soon got into the secret of getting a memorial before the Board, but I could not get an answer then; however I got intelligence from a messenger that I should get one next morning...”

这段英文虽不到 100 个单词,而 get 这个常见词竟出现了 14 次之多,而且它在文中的意义也各不相同。因此,我们要择善而从,在对这 14 个 get 理解和翻译时,要根据其基本意义、搭配关系、具体语境等诸多因素来选定词义。试看译文:

“接来函后,不到 10 分钟,我骑马动身了。到达坎特伯雷,换乘四轮马车进镇,但一场雨把我浑身淋湿,患了重感冒,一时不能

痊愈。大约中午到达财务委员会,要做的第一件事,就是刮脸换衣。不久,打听到在委员会前树碑的内情。可是我尚未接到通知,不过从送信者口里获悉翌日上午会有通知的……”

由此可见,一个看似简单的 get,它的意义是多么的丰富多变!

在翻译过程中,我们应充分利用词典,根据词在句中的词类来选择和确定词义。例如,在“Like charges repel; unlike charges attract.”一句中,like 用作形容词,其汉语对应意义是“相同的”,因此,该句可译为:“相同的电荷相斥,不同的电荷相吸。”但在下面各句中,like 又分属其他几个不同的词类,其意义也就各不相同:

(1)He likes mathematics more than physics. 他喜欢数学胜过喜欢物理学。(动词)

(2)In the sunbeam passing through the window there are fine grains of dust shining like gold. 在射入窗内的阳光里,细微的尘埃像金子一般在闪闪发亮。(介词)

(3)Like knows like. 英雄识英雄。(名词)

同时,我们还应根据上下文联系以及词在句中的搭配关系来选择和确定词义。让我们以 head 为例:

(1)He was badly wounded in the head. 他头部受了重伤。

(2)You should use your head a bit. 你该用用脑子。

(3)He has a good head for language. 他的语言能力很强。

(4)The dinner cost us five dollars a head. 这顿饭花去我们每人5块钱。

(5)Don't give up. Prick with the head of a needle like this. 别放弃。像这样用针尖挑。

(6)He was standing at the head of the staircase to reach for the box. 他站在楼梯的顶端伸手去拿那个盒子。

(7)After finishing explaining the text, the teacher asked the students to discuss the question under five heads. 解释完课文后,老师让学生分5个题目来讨论这个问题。



(8)The head of his bed was piled with books. 他的床头堆满了书。

(9)Present at the meeting were the heads of government of the fourteen countries. 出席会议的有 14 国政府的首脑。

(10)If you don't believe me, you may go and ask the head of our department. 如果你不相信我,你可以去问我们系的头嘛。

(11)Heads or tails? 正面还是反面?

(12)Where is the head? 厕所在哪里?(船上用语)

再以 look 为例:

(1)We should look at the question from all sides. 我们应全面地看待这个问题。

(2)The chairman refused to look at my suggestion. 主席拒绝考虑我的建议。

(3)You had better have your bad tooth looked at. 你最好去把你的病牙检查一下。

(4)I can't tell you what it's worth, you must get an expert to look at it. 我无法告诉你它的价值,你得找个专家审定一下。

然而,在翻译时,仅靠词典的释义还不足以使我们选出恰当的词义。有些词不能囿于词典的释义,而应根据具体的上下文探索原文作者的意图,然后再在译者自己活的词库中挑选出等值而又规范的词语来把原文的意思准确地表达出来。例如:《大学英语》精读第三册第一单元课文中有这么一句:

"You could have been a bit more helpful when we arrested you," he said to me reproachfully.

此句配套的《教师用书》提供的参考译文是:他带着责备的口气对我说:“我们抓你的时候,你本可以稍微帮点忙的。”这里将 helpful 硬译成“帮点忙”,似乎不妥。当然,helpful 的基本词义是“willing to help”,然而,在英国英语的口语中,helpful 的意思相当于 useful。那么,useful 在这里又该如何汉译呢?英汉词典虽然给

出了若干词义,但这仅仅是提供了若干可能使用的译文,标出了该词词汇含义的大致范围。再者,常用词往往在使用过程中不断地被赋予新义,从而使其词义渐趋丰富多彩。因此,原汉译似可改为:他带着指责的口气对我说:“我们抓你的时候,你本来可以拿出点能耐来的。”言外之意即为:当时你太窝囊了,活像个不三不四的流浪汉,所以我们把你当作小偷抓了。

从上述例子中,我们可以看出,越是一些常用词,其意义就越丰富、活跃。因此,在翻译过程中,我们决不可掉以轻心,匆忙动笔,而应谨慎选义。

### Exercise 1

将下列句子译成汉语:

1. Do you know the tall man who is growing a beard? Yes. He is an American professor.

2. The mere thought of food turned his stomach.

3. It is well known that the head of the Ganges is in the Himalayas.

4. He was very short-sighted, almost helpless without his glasses.

5. The pick-up head is then lifted and moved towards the edge of the record.

6. After the operation, his illness took a favourable turn.

7. I'll take a few turns round the deck before I go to bed.

8. When they went into the shop, the foreigners were much taken with Chinese handcraft.

9. If I take you correctly, I take it that you approve.

10. The city's yearly take from tourism is 5 million dollars.

11. The flood has been brought under control, and no harm will come to the county.

12. Iron comes between manganese and cobalt in atomic weight.

13. The screw had come loose, which terrified him greatly.

14. This machine works by electricity.

15. His humorous performance worked the audience into enthusiasm.

16. To their joy, the frost did no damage to the crops.

17. She doesn't like these shoes, for they won't do for mountain-climbing.

18. The victims of the earthquake are founded in everything.

19. After a discussion, the jury found the accused man guilty.

20. If there is no room in your study, you can house your old books in the attic.

## 第二节 词类转译法

词类转译法是翻译过程中常见的一种翻译技巧。所谓词类转译,是指在翻译过程中,根据英汉两种语言不同的表达方式进行词性转换。比如把原文中的名词转换为动词,把原文中的副词转换为介词,等等。这样,才能使汉语译文通顺自然。请揣摩下列例句:

(1) The government called for the establishment of more technical schools. 政府号召建立更多的技术学校。(名词 establishment 转译为动词“建立”。)

(2) Every day he would go out for a walk after super. 每天晚饭后他都要出去散步。(名词 walk 转译为动词“散步”。)

(3) Rockets have found application for the exploration of the universe. 火箭已经被用来探索宇宙。(名词 application 和 exploration 分别转译成动词“用来”和“探索”。)

(4)The sight and sound of our jet planes filled me with special longing. 看到我们的喷气式飞机,听见隆隆的飞机声,这一切都令我特别神往。(名词 sight 和 sound 分别转译成动词“看见”和“听见”。)

(5)His suggestion is that we put off our meeting. 他建议我们推迟开会。(名词 suggestion 转译成动词“建议”,原文中的主语变成了谓语,故其前的定语 His 也相应地转译成了主语。名词 meeting 转译成动词“开会”。)

(6)I am afraid I can't teach you swimming. I think my little brother is a better teacher than I. 我恐怕教不了你游泳。我想我的弟弟比我教得好。(英语中有些加后缀-er 的名词,如 teacher, driver, dancer 等,有时在句中并不指其身分和职业,而是含有较强的动作意味。如本句中,名词 teacher 即转译成了动词“教”。)

(7)He is a little bossy. He is not a good listener. 他有点霸道,不善于听取别人的意见。(名词 listener 转译为动词“听取”。)

(8)After being scolded by her mother, she came to her father for comfort. 被母亲斥责后,她找到她父亲,寻求安慰。(介词 for 转译成动词“寻求”。)

(9)I was against his plan from the beginning. 我从一开始就反对他的计划。(系动词 be + 介词 against 转译成行为动词“反对”。)

(10)“Coming!” Away she skimmed over the lawn, up the path, up the steps, across the veranda, and into the porch. “来啦!”她转身蹦蹦跳跳地跑了,越过草地,跑上小径,跨上台阶,穿过凉台,跑进门廊。(介词 over, up, up, across 和 into 分别转译成动词“越过”、“跑上”、“跨上”、“穿过”和“跑进”。)

(11)Soon Chichester was away in his new 16-metre boat. 不久,奇切斯特就驾驶着他那条 16 米长的新船出发了。(系动词 be + 副词 away 转译成行为动词“出发”,介词 in 转译成动词“驾

驶”。)

(12) All he is after is nothing but fame. 他所追求的只是名声而已。(系动词 be + 介词 after 转译为行为动词“追求”。)

(13) The old lady was sure that she would receive a present from her daughter. 老太太相信她会收到女儿礼物的。(系动词 be + 形容词 sure 转译为行为动词“相信”。)

(14) It was a very informative meeting. 会上透露了许多信息。(形容词 informative 转译为动词“透露信息”。)

(15) Being very excited, the little boy was up before sunrise on Christmas. 由于十分激动, 圣诞节那天, 这个小男孩在日出以前就起床了。(系动词 be + 副词 up 转译为动词“起床”。)

(16) Formality has always characterized their relationship. 他们之间的关系, 有一个特点, 那就是以礼相待。(动词 characterize 转译成名词“特点”。)

(17) Satellites, however, must be closely watched, for they are constantly being tugged at by the gravitational attraction of the sun, moon and earth. 由于经常受到太阳、月亮及地球引力的影响, 对卫星活动必须加以密切的观察。(动词 must be ... watched 和 being tugged at 分别转译成“受到 + 名词[影响]”和“加以 + 名词[观察]”结构。注意: 有些英语被动式句子中的动词, 可以译成“受[遭]到…… + 名词”、“予[加]以 + 名词”这类结构。)

(18) They were considered insincere. 他们被人认为是伪君子。(形容词 insincere 转译为名词“伪君子”。)

(19) Myra has got a medal for her work for the aged. 玛拉由于其为老年人所做的工作而获得了一枚奖牌。(定冠词 the + 形容词 aged 转译为名词“老年人”。)

(20) The comfort and warmth of the house were wonderful. 这所房子很舒服也很温暖, 好极了。(名词 comfort 和 warmth 转译成形容词“舒服”和“温暖”。)

(21) Because of his laziness, he was fired. 由于他很懒惰, 因而被解雇了。(名词 laziness 转译为形容词“懒惰”。)

(22) Independent thinking is an absolute necessity in study. 独立思考在学习是绝对必需的。(名词 necessity 转译成形容词“必需的”, 形容词 absolute 转译成副词“绝对”。)

(23) Buckley was in a clear minority. 巴克利显然属于少数。(形容词 clear 转译为副词“显然”。)

(24) They had prepared carefully for the examination. 他们为考试做了认真的准备。(副词 carefully 转译为形容词“认真的”。)

(25) The students should make full use of their time so that they can make great progress. 学生们应该充分利用他们的时间以取得很大的进步。(形容词 full 转译为副词“充分”。)

(26) He is physically weak but mentally sound. 他身体虽弱, 但思想健康。(副词 physically 和 mentally 分别转译为名词“身体”和“思想”。)

从以上词类转译的实例中, 我们不难看出, 尽管翻译中的词类转译是非常灵活的, 但也存在着一定的规律。最明显的一点就是英语中名词和介词用得比较多, 而汉语中动词则用得比较多。因此, 在英译汉时, 我们经常应把英语中的名词和介词转换成汉语中的动词。相反, 在进行汉译英时, 我们也往往应把汉语中的动词转换成英语中的名词和介词。总之, 我们在进行词类转译时, 应遵循语言中的客观规律, 根据实际情况进行转译。既要合乎语言客观规律, 又要做到通顺、地道。

## Exercise 2

将下列句子译成汉语:

1. I propose that we have half an hour's rest.
2. I'll never be dependent on anyone again. I'd rather starve.
3. Thieves broke in while the family was away.

4. This ticket is available until the end of the month.
5. We will have to think further about going on the trip.
6. We saw the new swift automobile from Italy.
7. The fat man was told by his doctor to go on a diet and lose weight.
8. The flame of the match was visible for miles.
9. The thought of flying terrified him so much that he decided to go by boat.
10. The social services department has specialists for each welfare category.
11. The Nazi war criminals were condemned for crimes against humanity.
12. I haven't so much free time as people think.
13. The referee blew his whistle as a signal for the game to begin.
14. A monkey is mature at a few years old, but a human being isn't mature till at least 16.
15. I followed him through the pasture gate, then down a little narrow cattle path into the deep hollow.
16. An aged man advanced slowly, with the aid of a stick.
17. The store has an abundant supply of toys for Christmas time.
18. The restoration of China's lawful rights in UN was a great event in 1971.
19. The candidate charged his opponent with evasion of the basic issues.
20. We were anxious that help should be sent promptly.

### 第三节 增词译法

由于英汉两种语言在表达方式上的差异,翻译时既可能要将词类加以转换,又可能要在词的数量上加以增减,因此,我们可以用增词法进行翻译。增词法即是指在翻译时按意义上(或修辞上)和句法上的需要,在原文的基础上增加一些必要的单词、词组、分句或完整句,从而更忠实、通顺地表达原文的思想内容,使得译文在语法、语言形式上符合译文习惯,在文化背景、词语联想方面与原文保持一致。请看下面的实例:

(1) In the evening, after the banquets, the concerts and the table tennis exhibitions, he would work on the drafting of the final communique. 晚上在参加宴会、出席音乐会、观看乒乓球表演之后,他还得起草最后公报。(增加动词。如果将原文一对一地译成“在宴会、音乐会、乒乓球表演之后”,意思似乎不够明确。增加了“参加”、“出席”、“观看”等动词后,则全句意思明确,使人一目了然,读起来也比较通顺、自然,符合汉语习惯。)

(2) “It’s a lucky thing your love romance happened that way. You wouldn’t have met Mother.” 你们的恋情这样结束可真巧,不然你就不会遇见妈妈了。(原文中并没有表示“不然”、“否则”等意的 or, otherwise 或 or else 等,但根据原句意思,在译文中增加“不然”一词,使得译文意思完整,合乎汉语表达习惯。)

(3) With what enthusiasm the students are studying English! 学生们正以多么高的热情学习英语啊!(增加形容词,使译文意思更加明确、完整。)

(4) As he sat down and began to talk, words poured out. 他一坐下来就讲开了,滔滔不绝地讲个没完。(增加副词,使意思更加确切。)

(5) Pumpkin pie is often served in remembrance of the Indian’s



gift to the first settlers. 为了追忆印第安人馈赠给首批欧洲移民的礼品,餐桌上通常摆着南瓜馅饼。(增加名词作定语,提供背景知识。)

(6) Day after day he came to his work — sweeping, scrubbing, cleaning. 他每天来干活——扫地、擦地板、收拾房间。(增加名词作宾语,使译文意思完整、明确。英语中有些动词,既可作及物动词,又可作不及物动词。当它作不及物动词时,其宾语实际上是隐含在动词后面的,译成汉语时往往需要把它表达出来。)

(7) “You pay at the desk”, the shop girl was telling him. “你到收银台去付款”,营业员告诉他。(增加名词作宾语,使译文意思完整、明确。)

(8) This washing machine is indeed cheap and fine. 这台洗衣机真是价廉物美。(在形容词前增加名词。)

(9) Mother was not happy with my arrogance. 妈妈对我的自满情绪感到不高兴。(在抽象名词后增加名词。某些由动词或形容词派生出来的抽象名词,翻译时可根据上下文在其后增添适当的名词,使译文更合乎规范。再如:prepare 准备→preparation 准备工作, persuade 说服→persuasion 说服工作, backward 落后→backwardness 落后状态, tense 紧张→tension 紧张局势(情绪), mad 疯狂→madness 疯狂行为,等等。)

(10) He allowed the father to be overruled by the judge, and declared his own son guilty. 他让法官的职责战胜了父子的亲情,从而判决他儿子有罪。(在具体名词后增加名词。当具体名词表达一种抽象概念时,译文中往往应根据上下文增加一些适当的名词。)

(11) Smiling faces greeted him when he appeared on the stage. 当他出现在舞台上时,一张张笑脸呈现在他的眼前。(增加重叠词表示复数意义,提高修辞效果。)

(12) I had imagined it to be merely a gesture of affection, but it