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Today's Translation Skills 今日翻译技巧丛书

新闻宣传英语

林克难 主编 南开大学出版社



前 言

(新闻宣传英语)不是针对某种标准化考试,而是旨在丰富读者英语表达能力、翻译实践能力,从而提高他们整体的英语修养。

我在天津电视台兼职担任英语新闻节目的译审工作已经整整两年了。这段时间里我越来越深刻地体会到,译者最感困难的不是单词,而是单词与单词的搭配。我第一天上任就纠正了两个译法。一是"表示欢迎",一是"介绍情况"。前者译成了 express welcome,后者译成了 introduce the situation(to the guests)。正确的译法应该是 extend welcome 与 brief(the guests) on the situation。又有一次,翻译一篇有关地震的新闻,大致内容是:河北省雷庄发生里氏六级地震,天津大部分地区有震感。这次,译者感到困难的仍然是词组搭配。"发生地震","六级地震","有震感",这几个词组直弄的当班译者兼播音员不知所措。事后我特意查了好几本汉英词典,上面所列举的五个词组都没有收入。(这几个词组均已收入本书,后三个词组见"地震"条)。

这时,一个想法在我的脑海里萌生了:能不能根据实际需要, 编写一本针对性强一些的汉英搭配词典呢?于是,我开始注意收 集人们在实际翻译中感到困难的那些词组与搭配。等集到一定数 量,便动笔编起书来。从编写之初,我就为自己定下了两条原则, 一是实用,即所收的每一词条都是人们在实际翻译中碰到过的或 者将来很可能会碰到的。凡是那些过时的怪僻的录了用不着的一 个也不收;一是新颖,讲求实效性,凡是我知道别的词典已经收了 的坚决不收。有不少词条,已经收了进来,后来经查别的词典发现 已经收了,统统被我毫不手软的忍痛割爱了。

本书根据词条的内容分为五个部分,即政治、经贸、文化、社会、体育,并按此顺序排列。在每一个部分里面,词条均按第一个汉字的拼音循序排列,查找十分方便。词条分为三个部分:例句、译文以及评注。例句主要有两个来源,一是电视台英语新闻的汉语原稿,一是国内出版发行的各大报刊。每个词条都附有译文,有的还附有两个以上的译文,以帮助读者掌握这些词组各种不同的译法。译文一部分系我们自己揣摩翻译的,另一部分系选自《中国日报》以及其它权威的英语出版物。评注部分介绍了有关词组的特点,来龙去脉,可替换词,与同义词组的细微差别以及人们在翻译中容易碰到的问题等等,这些词语知识想必读者会感兴趣。当然,有些词组不言自明,评注部分就略去了,以节省篇幅。

本书可供大中学生,外语教师,涉外工作人员包括记者、外交官、商贸人员、广播电视工作者以及广大英语爱好者使用。总之,一切想用纯正的英语向外国朋友宣传、介绍中国各方面情况的人们,都会发现本书是他们不可多得的一位良师益友。

需要特别指出的是,书中的译文既不是唯一的也不一定是最好的。举一个简单的例子,"一国两制",本书的译法是 one country, two systems. 但也有人认为,可以译成 two systems, one country,以突出 country;还有人提出最好的译文是 one country with two systems. 仁者见仁,智者见智,莫衷一是。本书的宗旨是提供一种新颖实用、查找方便的工具书,以解读者在翻译工作实践中的燃眉之急。编者表心地希望广大读者在使用本书的过程中提出自己的更好的译文来,以便再版时修订。

书的最后,附有两个索引。一个桉内容分门别类排列,读者通过这个索引可以了解到某一方面这本书收集了哪些词条;还有一个是全书总索引。两个索引均桉首字汉语拼音顺序排列,一索即得,十分便捷。

本书编者要衷心感谢两年来先后同我一起在天津电视台英语新闻节目工作过的同志们,其中有南开大学的崔永禄、蔡军、门镜、王静静,天津外国语学院的尹元耀、胡觉明、李晶、金涛、刘国强,电视台的陈彤、郭健、麻红艳以及王以信、尹畅。他们的译文,给了我最初的灵感,并使我真切地感受到编写这样一本书的迫切性与必要性。本书编者还要感谢董守信同志,他为本书编者慷慨提供了各种资料。最后,本书编者要特别感谢南开大学出版社的张彤同志。她同我一样,一贯主张素质教育,而对应试教育持有不同的意见,并在出版选题上积极予以配合。我们有过十分愉快的合作,和信我们这次的合作也一定会取得圆满成功。

林克难 1997 年 4 月 19 日

目 录

前言	· <u>:</u> · · · · · · ·		• • • • • • • • •	 (I)
正文				 (1)
第一部分:	政治	••••		 (1)
第二部分:	经贸	•••••		 (46)
第三部分:	文化	••••		 (102)
第四部分:	社会		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	 (124)
第五部分:	体育			 (183)
分类索引		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		 (226)
总索引		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		 (252)

第一部分 政治

哀乐 funeral music

例句: 追悼大会上午十点开始, 人民解放军军乐队奏起了悲壮的**哀乐**。

译文: The mourning ceremony began at 10 am. as the PLA band played the solemn strain of *funeral music*.

评注:中文侧重音乐的性质,英语则强调秦乐的场合。汉、英两个民族这种思维方式上的差异,往往是造成"硬译"的一个原因。

安居工程 Comfortable Housing Project

例句:为**安居工程**建造的住房以及为解决中低收入家庭住房 困难而由地方集资建造的住房将以成本价向城市居民出售。

译文: Apartments built under the "Comfortable Housing Project", and other houses built with the localities to ease the housing shortage of middle or low-income families, should be sold to urban residents at cost value.

评注:"安居工程"也有译成 Adequate Housing Project 的。

把握全局 grasp the overall situation

例句:这篇题为《把握全局,继续前进》的社论写道:大会总结分析了自 1993 年末开始的宏观调控后的经济发展,并制定了1997年经济政策的总的原则与任务。

译文: The editorial titled "Grasp the Overall Situation and Continue to March Forward"said the conference reviewed and an alysed the economic development since the start of macro-control in late 1993 and set up the general principles and main tasks of economic policy for 1997.

评注:注意"全局"的译法 overall situation.

颁奖大会 awards ceremony

例句:昨天在北京的**颁奖**大会上,由中国政府与一位香港商人设立的一项基金对 245 名教师所作出的贡献予以表彰。

译文: A foundation set up by the Chinese Government and a Hong Kong businessman recognized the contributions of 245 teachers at an *awards ceremony* in Beijing yesterday.

评注:"颁"没有必要翻译出来,即没有必要译成 award-giving ceremony。又,体育比赛的"颁奖仪式"是 victory ceremony.

保持不变 remain unchanged

例句:政府对于复员、退伍军人的政策保持不变。

译文: The government policy towards ex-soldiers has remained unchanged.

评注: remain 这儿是联系动词, 而"联系动词 + 表语"是英语中常见的结构。属于这种结构的词组还有 go unnoticed (未被注意)等等。

不愿透露姓名 ask to remain anonymous

例句:一位**不愿透露姓名**的专家说中国的资本市场远未成熟, 经不起外国资本大量涌入而带来的剧烈波动。 译文: The expert, who asked to remain anonymous, said China's capital market was far from mature and could not bear sharp fluctuations of a massive influx of foreign funds.

评注:这是一个固定搭配,需要将它作为一个整体进行记忆。 另一种译法见例二。

例二: The State Planning Commission is considering a cut in IDD rate charges possibly by the end of this year or early next year, said the source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

采取措施 take measures

例句:天津采取切实措施控制物价。

译文: Tianjin has *taken* concrete *measures* to exercise strict control over prices.

评注:"采取"有些译者喜欢译成 adopt 好象铢两悉称,但一般情况下这两个词并不搭配。同 measure 搭配的词是 take, 当然"措施"也不一定要译成 measure,用 step 也是可以的。所以,采取措施也可译成 take steps。

参政、议政 participate in the management of State affairs

例句:江泽民说在过去的一年里政协全国及地方委员会参政 议政,就国家的改革、开放、经济发展、社会进步以及祖国的统一提出了宝贵的意见。

译文: Jiang said that over the past year, the CPPCC National and local committees have been participating in the management of State affairs and raised valuable suggestions on the country's reform, opening, economic growth, overall social progress and reunification of the motherland.

评注:"政"这儿指的是"国家事务"。"议政"的内容已经包含在"管理国家事务"当中了, 没必要再加上 discuss, talk about 之类的词。

出入境 exit and entry

例句:他要求加强打击与出入境有关的犯罪。

译文: He called for greater efforts to crack down on crimes relating to exit and entry.

评注:"出入境"在英语译文中见不到"境"。这个译文充分体现了英语简洁的特点。而汉译英一个很大的问题就是逐字照撒而造成的累赘、笨重。这个译文值得借鉴。

村长 village head

例句:华东浙江省各级政府开办各种学习班以**提高村长**的教育水平。

译文: Governments at various levels of East China's Zhejiang Province are running a range of courses to help improve the educational level of *village heads*.

评注: head 可以用于各种场合, 下至村长, 以及处长、局长, 上至国家元首(head of state)都可以用 head, 好象 head 与汉语的"头儿"并不对等, head 并无贬义。

大要案 major and serious criminal cases

例句:我们加强了廉政、勤政建设,加强了反腐败的斗争,努力改善社会各方面的治安,处理了一批**大要案**。

译文: We intensified our endeavour to keep government employees honest and industrious, stepped up the struggle against cor-

ruption and our efforts to improve all facets of public security, and dealt with a number of major and serious criminal cases.

评注:这句中的"勤政、廉政"(honest and industrious)的译法 也值得注意。

当选行政长官 chief executive-elect

例句:他是在北京人民大会堂接见香港特别行政区首届**当选 行政长官**董建华时说这番话的。

译文:He made the remarks in a meeting with Tung Chee-hwa, first *chief executive-elect* of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

评注:"当选"系对选出之后正式就任之前的某官员的称呼。 英语用官衔加 elect 表示。又如当选总统叫 President-elect 等等。

倒计时 countdown to

例句:昨天在香港的蓝投举行了盛大集会,从而开始了为纪念恢复对香港行使主权倒计时400天而举行的为期两周的嘉年华。

译文: A large gathering was held on Lantau, Hong Kong, yesterday to mark the start of two-week carnivals for the 400th day in the *countdown to* the return of its exercise of sovereignty to China.

评注:"倒计时"countdown 后面跟的介词是 to。

得到支持 command support

例句:香港各报昨天以显著地位报道了董建华当选为行政长官候选人,说他**得到**六百万当地居民的**支持**。

译文: All Hong Kong newspapers yesterday highlighted the selection of Tung as the candidate for the chief executive saying that

he commanded popular support from 6 million local residents.

评注:"得到支持"还有一种常见的译法,叫 win the support。

地区差别 regional disparity

例句:地区差别是历史造成的,缩小这种差别需要时间。

译文: Regional disparity is a product of history and it will take time to narrow it.

评注:"差别"很容易译成 difference, 但 difference 不一定是贫富、先进与落后之间的差别, 只是"不一样"而已。

第一生产力 primary productive force

例句:如今科技作为**第一生产力**的地位变得十分明显,科技已 经成了促进经济、社会发展,实现国家繁荣富强的决定因素。

译文: Nowadays, the role of science and technology as the *primary productive force* is become so pronounced that they have become the decisive factor in promoting economic and social development and making China a prosperous and powerful country.

评注:"第一生产力"不要译成 first productive force。

电话会议 teleconference

例句:吴邦国副总理在昨天北京的**电话会议**上说必须做好组织工作以使人们有秩序地回乡或去其它地方。

译文: Vice-Premier Wu Bangguo told a *teleconference* in Beijing yesterday that good organization work should be done to enable people to travel to their hometown or other places in an orderly manner.

评注: tele-这儿当然是 telephone 的缩略形式。但妙的是 tele-

本身是"远距离"的意思,如 telescope(望远镜), television(电视,原意是"远方来的图像")等等。用在这儿,既有"电话会议",又有"与会者相隔距离遥远"双重意思。

发挥积极性 give play to the zeal

例句:第八条,充分发挥中央和地方两个积极性。

译文: The eighth is to give full play to the zeal of the central government and localities.

评注:"积极性"有时也译成 initiative。

发展不平衡 disparate development

例句:地区间发展不平衡是中国的基本国情。

译文: **Disparate development** of different regions is a basic condition in China.

评注:另一种译法是 imbalanced development。

法律援助制度 legal assistance system

例句:中国计划在未来的五至十年时间里完善**法律援助制度**,司法部长肖秧星期一说。

译文: China is scheduled to improve its *legal assistance system* in the next five to ten years, Justice Minister Xiao Yang said on Monday.

法制建设 legal construction

·例句:有人认为国家应该重点进行法制建设,国为法律可以保证市场经济健康发展。

译文: Some say the country should focus on legal construction

because laws can guarantee the smooth development of the market economy.

评注:这是典型的"中国英语"(China English),即为介绍中国特有的情况而创造的英语词。这种词汇在对外宣传中是不可缺少的。但要注意"分寸","中国英语"一旦出了圈,英、美人无法理解了,就成了中国式英语(Chinese English),而中国式英语是必须克服的。

翻两番 quadruple

例句:我要向大会宣布,原定的 2000 年国民生产总值比 1980 年**翻两番**的目标已经提前五年完成。

译文: Iwould like to announce to the Congress that the original target of *quadrupling* the GNP of 1980 by the year 2000 has been fulfilled five years ahead of schedule.

评注:中、英文计算方法不一样。英语是以原值为单位,一倍一倍往上加。于是,中文的"翻两番"到英语里头便成了"四倍"。

改革开放时代 era of reform and opening-up

例句:他说,全心全意地依靠工人阶级**是改革开放时代一条根** 本的政治原则。

译文: He noted that depending wholeheartedly on the working class is a cardinal political principle in the *era of reform and opening-up*.

评注:注意,"开放"是 opening-up 而不是简单的 opening。

高层互访 high-profile visit

例句:中法两国高层互访无疑将有益于两国的贸易及经济合

作。

译文: The *high-profile visits* by officials of both countries is undoubtedly favorable to Sino-French trade and economic co-operation.

评注:可替换的说法还有: high-level visit, visit by high-ranking officials 等等。

高举 hold high

例句:高举邓小平建设有中国特色的社会主义的旗帜。

译文: **Hold high** the banner of Deng Xiaoping's theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

译注:有人受"举"的影响, 把"高举"译成 raise high, 这是不妥的。因为 raise 表示瞬间动作, 而 hold 表示持续动作。"高举"在这个上下文中是一个持续的动作。英语中, 动词常常有这种区别, 值得大家注意。

工作报告 work report

例句:代表们昨天在人民大会堂听取了李鹏总理作的政府工 作报告。

译文: Deputies listen to the government work report delivered yesterday by Premier Li Peng at the Great Hall of the People.

评注:有趣的是"工作报告"的英译是 work report, 而"工作会议"却是 working conference, 许多译者往往译错。

公款吃喝 recreational activities using public funds

例句:中央政府遏制了**公款吃喝**之后,洒楼饭店生意受到影响。

译文: The business of restaurants and hotels had been affected after the central government curbed recreational activities using public funds.

评注:"公款旅游"的译文是 tours conducted at public expense, 见例二。

例二: And most of these visitors are on government sponsored tours conducted at public expense.

公务员 civil servant

例句:该学院专门培养中高级公务员。

译文: The institute specializes in the training of senior and medium-level civil servants.

公有住房 State-owned apartment

例句:为了改革国家的住房公有的政策,中国政府计划今年向 城市居民以与其工资收入水平相应的价位出售**公有住房**。

译文: In a move to reform the country's public housing policy, the Chinese Government plans to sell *State-owned apartments* to urban residents this year at prices compatible with their income levels.

公正、公平、公开 just, fair and open

例句:他说选举是公正、公平、公开的,选举的全过程进行了电视转播。

译文:He said the election was done in a just, fair and open manner.

评注:除了"三公"的译文以外, 请注意 in a manner 的表达法。 试比较用副词的另一种译法: ··· was done justly, fairly and openly. 汉译英的这种把副词转译成名词的方法,是克服"中式英语"的一个重要手段。

共同努力 common efforts

例句:在中国共产党的领导下,在全国各族人民的**共同努力** 下."八五"期间的主要任务均已完成或超额完成。

译文: Under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and with *common efforts* of the people of all our nationalities, the major tasks set by "the Eighth Five-Year Plan" have been fulfilled or overfulfilled.

评注:这是"共同努力"的名词译法。动词译法可用 make joint efforts 以及 make concerted efforts。见例二。

例二: The Chinese and Russian foreign ministers pledged to **make joint efforts** to promote bilateral ties and implement the agreement reached at the Sino-Russian summit held in April.

拐卖妇女儿童 abduction of women and children

例句:警方一位高级官员昨天说,打击卖淫嫖娼,**拐卖妇女儿 童**的斗争在过去几年内取得了很大的进展。

译文: The battle against prostitution and abduction of women and children has made remarkable progress in China over the past few years, a senior police officer said yesterday.

评注:"卖"尽管没有译出,但,"拐"总是有目的的,以此获利是目的之一。因此,"拐"包含了"卖"的意思在内了。

国家领导人 state leader

例句:国家领导人已经阐明腐败主要表现为行贿受贿,钱权交

易,挥霍公共财产,巧取豪夺,生活堕落。

译文: State leaders have made it clear that corruption mainly involves offering or accepting bribes, power-money transactions, squandering public property, extortion and degeneration.

评注:因为"国家"在英语中有好几个对等词,比如:country, nation, state 等等,于是,在实际翻译操作当中便出现各种各样的译文。正确的译文应该是 state leader,更多的情况下是以"党和国家领导人"的词组出现。译成英语便是 Party and state leaders.

合法收入 lawfully earned income

例句:国家保护**合法收入**,反对非法收入,并采取步骤制止非 法竞争。

译文: The State protects *lawfully earned income*, outlaws other income and take measures against illegitimate competition.

<u> 互利合作 mutually-beneficial co-operation</u>

例句:福勒说美中应该进行**互利合作**而不要互相制裁,还说两 国关系应该建立在平等的基础上。

译文:Fuller said the United States and China should carry out mutually-beneficial co-operation, instead of reciprocal sanctions, adding that the relations between the two countries should be based on equality.

欢送会 send-off ceremony

例句:国务委员李贵鲜昨天在北京大学的**欢送会**上向学生授 旗。

译文: State Councilor Li Guixian presents students with a flag