

高等教育（矿业）“十二五”规划教材

A Coursebook on English-Chinese and Chinese-English Translation

张燕清 席东 张建昌 编著

新版英汉互译理论与实践



**English-Chinese and
Chinese-English**

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WILLIAM H. WATSON

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内 容 提 要

本书围绕英语专业高年级翻译教学任务,阐述了翻译的基本理论知识及实用文体的特点及翻译策略。全书共分十二章,前六章是理论部分,介绍翻译的基本知识,词、成语、句子、语篇等的翻译方法技巧,以及西方译论,第七章至第十二章是实务部分,介绍了新闻、广告、旅游、商标、公示语等文体的特点及翻译策略,以及近年来英语专业八级考试的汉英、英汉翻译试题及其参考译文。每章节后附有精选翻译练习,通过练习使学生的翻译技巧与实践有机结合,培养学生的翻译能力。

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前 言

《新版英汉互译理论与实践》作为一门课程教材,是为培养和提高英语专业本科生的实际翻译能力而编写的。它具有较强的实用性。其目的在于使具有一定英语水平的学员经过培训,获得一定的汉英、英汉翻译能力。

本教材的主要内容包括:

1) 翻译的基本知识及原则,包括翻译的性质、标准、翻译的过程等;

2) 翻译中的常见的问题和解决问题的方法(如:词汇、搭配和成语、句子翻译中的难题和翻译方法等);

3) 翻译方法的介绍;

4) 西方主要译论的介绍;

5) 新闻、广告、旅游、商标、公示语等实用文体的特点及翻译策略;

6) 近几年英语专业八级考试汉英、英汉翻译试题及其参考译文。

本教程的最大特点是用英语编写,重要的概念和术语配有汉语解释。因为本书的读者主要是英语专业的学生。英语专业学生平时的学期论文和毕业论文都是要用英语来完成的,课堂授课也以英语为主,所以本教材旨在帮助他们以英语的思维来学习翻译中的问题、解决问题的策略、翻译学的术语、如何分析原文、如何欣赏优秀的译文以及用适当的翻译方法来完成翻译任务。

为了培养了新世纪的翻译人才,编者在选择翻译练习材料的过程中,比较重视练习材料的时代性、实用性和广泛性。所选语料题材多样、覆盖面广,同时还注重了语料的趣味性及难度,以调动学生的翻译兴趣。

本书由西安科技大学张燕清、席东、张建昌编著。张燕清编写了

第1章的1.1,第3章,第4章的4.2,第7章,第8章的8.1、8.2、8.3、8.4和第12章的12.2等章节;席东编写了第1章的1.3,第2章的2.2,第4章的4.1,第5章,第8章的8.5,第9章,第10章,第11章,第12章的12.1;张建昌编写了第1章的1.2,第2章的2.1,第6章和附录的参考译文。(说明:第4章摘录了 Peter Newmark 著作 *A Text-book of Translation* 中的内容,由张燕清进行了编排并提供了思考题和翻译练习题。)

限于作者的水平与经验,书中难免会有缺陷与错误,恳请读者批评指正。

作 者

2013年5月

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理 论 篇

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 General introduction to translation

In the development of human civilization, translation plays an active role in enhancing mutual understanding and promoting cultural exchanges among people and nations of different languages.

Translation practice has existed for thousands of years. As far as the origin of translation is concerned, a biblical myth is frequently quoted in various translation literatures. According to the Bible, the tale of the Tower of Babel, from Genesis 11, is an “explanation” of why there are so many different languages. Tower of Babel is called “the temple of the platform between heaven and earth”. It is recorded in the Bible that once the whole earth had only one language and few words. And man wanted to build a tower with its top in the heavens, and then they could make a name for themselves. However when the lord came down to see the tower, he was unhappy with man’s action, so he confused their language thus man could not understand one another’s speech. From then on, men scattered over the face of the earth, and they left off building the tower. Therefore, the name of the tower was called Babel, which means confusion. And consequently such confusion of languages makes translation indispensable in the inter-cultural communications.

Historically speaking, in China, the earliest recorded translation activity, concerning the interaction of Han people with the minority ethnic groups that scattered in the east, west, south and north who were once derogated as Yi, Rong, Man, Di respectively, can be dated back to the Zhou Dynasty that was 3,000 years ago (陈富康, 1997). While in the west, translation study can be traced back to the Roman scholars of Cicero and Horace in the first and second century before Christ. Horace’s famous phrase “fidus interpres” used in his

Ars Poetica indicated that the great Roman scholar had already paid attention to the translation phenomenon arising in the Roman social life (Bassntt Lefevere, 2001).

1.1.1 An overview of translation in the Chinese history

Translation has been crucial to the introduction of western learning and the making of national culture in China. China has an over five thousand-year long history of human civilization and a three thousand-year history of translation. The earliest translation activities in China date back to the Zhou dynasty (周朝, 前 1046—前 256).

The First Peak of Translation in China came in the Sui dynasty (隋朝, 581—618) and the Tang dynasty (唐朝, 618—907), although the translations were mainly of the Buddhist scriptures.

Translators in this period were mainly Buddhist monks. They not only had a very good command of Sanskrit but also thoroughly studied translation theory. Since the translations were mainly on religious scriptures, they thought translators should: “1) be faithful to the Buddhist doctrine, 2) be ready to benefit the readers (Buddhist believers), 3) concentrate on the translation of the Buddhist doctrine rather than translating for fame.”

One of the most important figures in the first peak of translation in China was the famous monk in the Tang dynasty—Xuan Zang (玄奘, 600-664), who was the main character in *A Journey to the West*.

The Second Peak of Translation in China was at the end of the 16th century. With the arrival of western Christian missionaries, China came into contact with Europe, which had begun to overtake China in various scientific and technological fields. To facilitate their relations with Chinese officials and intellectuals, the missionaries translated works of western science and technology as well as Christian texts.

The missionaries were often assisted by Chinese collaborators. For these Chinese scholars, translation was not limited to passive reproduction; instead, the translated texts served as a basis for further research.

Although translations carried out during the Ming dynasty (明朝) mainly on science and technology (mathematics, astronomy, medicine, hydrology etc.), there were also some translations of philosophy and literature in this period. Foreign missionaries whose main purpose was to promote Christianity

became the first group of disseminators of western knowledge.

The Third Peak of Translation in China—Western learning translation was from the Opium War(鸦片战争) to the May Fourth Movement of 1919.

The third wave started when China was forced to open up to the imperialist powers from the West. China's intelligentsia realized that China was no longer the Central Kingdom of the world, and that they had much to learn from the West. Lin Zexu(1785-1850) believed that China must "learn from the strong points of the enemies in order to eventually conquer them". He organized a team of translators to focus on the translation of Western works of social and military sciences. However, towards the end of the 19th century, literary translation began to flourish. The translation of Western works had an effect on the minds of Chinese people, and a series of revolutionary movements ensued, sweeping across the country and over the centuries. The feudal society was replaced by the Republic of China.

When retrospectively the changes that have taken place in China and across the world, we come to realize that generations of translators have played an important role in shaping both the destinies of their own countries and their relations with other countries of the world.

1.1.2 Function of translation

Basically, translation involves different languages, so very often it is used for foreign language learning. Especially in the past, the Grammar-Translation approach was applied in many areas in foreign or second language teaching. Therefore, practice of translation can help learners improve their proficiency in the languages concerned.

However, translation goes far beyond an approach to acquiring languages. Its original function is to promote the communication between different cultures. Ji Xianlin, a famous scholar in China, believed that translation is the panacea for the lasting vigor of the Chinese civilization. Of course, the Chinese masterpieces are also translated to other languages to promote the cross-cultural communication.

The importance of translation is becoming increasingly important in the current world characterized by globalization. Translation provides us with the access to the latest news around the world.

In short, translation promotes the communication among different

cultures and powerfully drives the society forward.

1.1.3 Notion of translation

As “the most complex thing in the history of cosmos,” (Rechards, 1953) translation has various versions of definition. According to dictionary, translation is a rendering from one language into another, but it is of course too general. Translation, being so complicated an activity, has been defined differently.

Catford defines translation as “the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL)” (Catford, 1965). Sager Jakobson sees the translation process as a substitution of “messages in one language not for separate code-units but for entire messages in some other language”(Shuttleworth, 2001).

An approach based on the importance of preserving the effect of the original reflected in Nida & Taber’s definition: “translating consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source-language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style”(Nida & Taber, 2001). Translating must aim primarily at “reproducing the message.” To do anything else is essentially false to one’s task as a translator. But to reproduce the message one must make a good many grammatical and lexical adjustments.

Nord sees translation from a functionist’s point of view: “translation is the production of a functional target text maintaining a relationship with a given source text that is specified according to the intended or demanded function of the target text”(Nord, 2001).

Although there are all these varied opinions, one thing is commonly accepted: translation is a science with its own rules and principles for translators to abide by. In addition, translation is not simply the form changes of different languages. Instead, many factors behind language itself should be taken into consideration.

For example, the form of the language should not hinder the expression of its original while translating the following sentences.

1) The motor did not stop running because the fuel was finished.

2) John is now with his parents in New York; it is already three years since he was a bandmaster.

3) 这些天穿什么衣服的都有,真是“二八月乱穿衣”啊。

1.1.4 Scope of translation

Translation covers a very broad range. In terms of languages, it can be divided into two categories: from native languages into foreign languages and vice versa; in terms of the mode, it can be divided into oral interpretation, written translation, machine translation (机器翻译) and computer-assisted translation(计算机辅助翻译); in terms of materials to be translated, there is translation of scientific materials, translation of political essays such as treatises on social problems, reports, speeches, etc., and translation of practical writing (such as official documents, contracts and agreements, notices, receipts, etc.); in terms of disposal, it can be either full-text translation(全文翻译), abridged translation(摘译) or adapted translation(编译).

1.1.5 Requirements for a qualified translator

First, it is self-evident that a competent translator should have very good command of the languages concerned. It is generally believed that one's proficiency in a foreign language cannot surpass his mother tongue. Therefore, for Chinese-English and English-Chinese translation, both languages should be practiced and improved for the sake of both translation skills and foreign language skills.

For example:

1) 那研究生英年好学,矻矻三载,终使其论文得以付梓。

Eager to learn at his life's full flowering, the graduate student worked diligently and untiringly for three years, and finally he had his thesis published.

2) 不少人认为“信达雅”是严复的戛戛独造,并奉之为译事圭臬。

Many people hold that “faithfulness, expressiveness and elegance” is Yan Fu's own great original creation and regard it as the standard of translation.

3) Henry Kissinger had slept there before, in July and again in October.

这之前,亨利·基辛格在7月和10月两度在这里下榻。

4) The peasants and workers were hand in glove with one another in the struggle against the landlords and capitalists who worked hand in