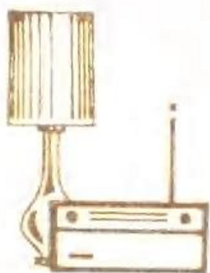


综合 阅读方法 和技巧

上册

天津人民出版社



天津广播电视大学科技英语翻译专业

英语综合阅读方法和技巧

上册

叶永昌 编著

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内 容 提 要

“英语综合阅读方法和技巧”是为了已学过基础英语的读者编写的,以便使他们进一步提高独立的阅读能力,并适应于参加社会上的各种英语考试。

本书不仅介绍了各种阅读方法,还侧重对阅读理解至关重要的许多专题作了较为具体的阐述。所有专题都结合大量实例讲述如何理解和如何分析的 综合 方法,并通过易混淆的句子对比提出理 解 原文时应注意的事项。为此,作者在编写时注重英汉差别大的语言结构以及容易误解的语言现象和难点,并结合具体例句提出根据语言结构、上下文、科学知识、生活经验以及英语本身的习惯用法进行逻辑判别的方法。绝大多数专题末尾都编写了各专题内容的总结和注意事项。

本书可供中等英语水平的读者参考,也可供科技人员、大专院校理工科师生阅读英语和参加各种英语考试时学习参考。

在本书编写过程中,楠虹提供了不少实际材料,并参加了部分工作。

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一、英语综合阅读方法概述

英语阅读要求有一定的英语词汇(包括固定词组)和语法基础。但是仅仅有这两样东西,并不等于阅读就过了关。阅读是一门专门技能。我们要讲究阅读技巧,才能对原文有正确和深刻的理解。特别在阅读你不熟悉的材料时,阅读技巧就显得更为重要。

阅读英语文章,最好先通读一遍,然后细读每个句子。初学者一般不习惯于通读全文,那么至少也应该读一段或几个句子,然后再逐句细读。这样做的好处是:让读者知道全文或一小段的大致内容,有利于读者在一定的上下文条件下选择合适的词义、分析词与词和句与句之间的关系。通读和细读相结合本身就是基本阅读技巧之一。

例如阅读和翻译原文时,常常有这样的情况:一开始,对某个多义词在本句内的词义,由于种种原因,未能确定。这时千万不要卡住,而应带着这个问题继续读下去。读到后面,随着文章叙述越来越具体,反而对前面未确定的词义越来越清楚。这时再在前面补上正确的词义。这种阅读方法既省时间,又能正确理解原文。现具体举一个例子如下:

A dinosaur track described as perhaps the largest ever found intact, measuring nearly 5 feet by 3 feet, has been uncovered in a rock quarry in Granby, Massachusetts. The quarry is dotted with imprints left by the ancient reptiles. The owner of a commercial dinosaur museum

said he found the track last week while digging in a layer of rippled shale. He estimated that the imprint was left in the quarry 180 million to 200 million years ago by a dinosaur that measured 70 feet from head to tail.

开始阅读上段第一句时,对 track 作“痕迹”还是“足迹”解,感到有些犹豫,后面“5×3 英尺”表明这还是一个具体部位的尺寸。读到本段最后的 70 feet from head to tail,就感到最前面的 track 译作“足迹”为宜,因为那样庞然大物,其足迹 5 英尺长、3 英尺宽是合乎恐龙的躯体比例的。同理,对于第一次出现的泛指的 imprints,由于系“古爬虫类遗留下的”,理解为“痕迹”很合适,而后面第二次出现的特指的单数 the imprint,显然指的就是前面的 the track (也即是指最前面的“A dinosaur track”而言),故直接译为“足迹”是很妥当的。于是,上段可译为:

在马萨诸塞州格兰比采石场发现了恐龙的足迹,有 5 英尺长,3 英尺宽,人们把它描绘为也许是过去发现的恐龙中最大而完整的恐龙足迹。该采石场到处是古爬虫类遗留下来的斑斑痕迹。商业性质的恐龙博物馆老板说,他上周在挖掘一层波纹页岩时,发现了这个足迹。留在采石场上的足迹,他估计是由一个头尾全长为 70 英尺的恐龙在 1 亿 8 千万年到 2 亿年以前留下的。

上面这种阅读是精读,要求确切理解在具体句中的词义以及前后各句之间的相互关系,并且还要求笔译的文字通顺达意。这里要求尽量做到百分之百的正确理解。

还有一种是泛读,它不要求逐句逐段仔细阅读,正确理解程度达 70% 就行。

就泛读而言,我们用的最多的是浏览,其次是查阅。

1. 浏览

浏览不要求全面、透彻地了解文章全部内容,而只是要求了解文章大意。前面我们提出的先把原文材料通读一遍,就应采用这种浏览的阅读方法。浏览的效果取决于是否善于抓文章的关键性语句及段落,也取决于是否善于区别文章的重要部分和次要部分。为了迅速抓住文章的“主干”,略去“枝节”,必须首先注意下列几点:

- 一、注意文章的标题,它首先告诉你这篇文章的主题是什么,便于你结合主题去理解文章概略内容,也便于对文章中某些词的词义进行正确的选择。例如 tube 一词出现在有关化学实验的文章中,一般按“管子”、“试管”理解;若出现在电子学的文章或书刊中,则作“电子管”讲就居多数。
- 二、注意文章的第一、二段文字,这是文章的开场白或导言。若阅读新闻报导,则第一段多半是该篇报导的简介。同时要注意文章末尾的结论性段落。
- 三、抓住反映段落中心思想的主题句或关键性的词句。
- 四、注意表示句意正反方向的词语和语气转折的词语。例如见到 and, also, as well, not only ... but also, moreover, furthermore, likewise, in addition 等词语,则前后内容在方向上是一致的,多半是后者补充说明前者。如果见到 but, otherwise, or else, however, in spite of, despite, although (或 though), notwithstanding, on the contrary 等词语,则前后语气有一个转折。

同时还得注意句意表达的意思是肯定的还是否定的。有时无否定词出现却含有否定意思,而有否定

词出现却表示肯定意思。例如 *but for*, *but that* (用于虚构的假设条件), *too ... + 不定式*, *anything but*, *far from* (作“远非”讲), *rather than*, *other than*, *instead of*, *keep ... from* (作“让…不…”讲) 等就含有否定意思, 而 *cannot ... too ...*, *nothing else but*, *and what not*, *nothing less than*, *nothing more than*, *none other than*, *cannot but + 原形动词*, *more or less* 等词语, 虽然出现了否定词, 但却不含有否定意思。

此外, 必须将虚拟语气和陈述语气区别开, 同时掌握虚拟语气的各种用法。设想一下, 将虚构的假设视为可能实现的条件, 将表示建议、愿望和要求的虚拟语气与事实不符的虚拟语气用法混为一谈, 将表示猜测和主观判断的虚拟语气 (如 *would ...*) 跟表示过去将来时或过去多次动作的 *would* 混淆在一起, 这一切必将对文章的理解在方向上产生很大的差错和影响。

本项上述三个方面的内容至关重要。若发生误解, 就会在理解上犯方向性错误。

现列出下列几篇短文或段落作为举例说明。

Fresh Water Factories

Three-fourths of the world is covered with water. But only about three per cent of this water is fresh. All the rest is salt water, and fills the oceans and seas.

Water, water everywhere

Nor any drop to drink.

These famous lines were written by an eighteenth century English writer about a seaman who was left all alone on a wide, wide ocean. The lines above show that sea water is unfit for drinking.

All through history men have tried to build their homes near the sources of fresh water. Now fresh water is becoming scarce, but more and more is needed because of the increasing number of people in the world. Some industries also use large amounts of fresh water in the production of such things as steel, petroleum, paper, and synthetic rubber.

Scientists estimate that the need for fresh water will have doubled by the year 2000. If they are correct, we must find new ways of saving it or producing it. Some nations have worked on the problem and are already sharing their information with others. They are trying to keep their rivers from being polluted. Deep wells are also being dug, and rain water is being collected in huge artificial lakes. In one way or another, they hope to provide enough water to satisfy the needs of their people.

One important way to have fresh water is to make it from sea water. Several processes can be used, but distillation seems to be the most common one, by which nearly 98 per cent of artificially *desalted* water is produced. In this process, the *salty* sea water is heated in *trays* until a vapor rises, leaving the salt. When the vapor cools it becomes water again, good enough to drink.

After being desalted, sea water can be used *not only* for drinking *but also* for industry and irrigation. In places where the climate is dry, distillation factories are producing vast amounts of desalted water *daily*. And life has become easier for the people since the fresh water factories were built.

The great problem in desalting is not whether it works, but how much it costs. Building the plants is *costly* and so are the equipment and the fuel for the processes. Coal, petroleum, and electricity are the sources of heat now being used, but scientists are looking for sources that will be cheaper. Nuclear energy is a possibility, and some factories get their heat from the sun.

One solution to the problem of fresh water may be plants with two purposes — making fresh water at the same time that they generate electricity. Power plants use oil, coal, or nuclear fuel to make the steam that runs the generators. As this steam finishes its work, there is still some heat left in it. In the *dual*-purpose plant this heat would be used for the distillation process. Perhaps such plants will provide man with ever-increasing amounts of fresh water at low cost.

浏览上面这篇文章时，首先注意文章题目和第一段引导性文字，尤其这两行诗起到了点题的作用。

以后各段的第一句话都是该段文字的关键性词句或中心思想。最后一段乃是结论性段落，尤其是该段第一句 “One solution to the problem of fresh water may be plants with

two purposes — making fresh water at the same time that they generate electricity”,正是本文题目 Fresh Water Factories 的具体功能。

由于第一段中就把 fresh water 和 salt water 进行对比,显然这个 fresh water 不能译为“新鲜的水”,而应译为“淡水”。

如果按上述方式浏览一篇文章,主次就分明,对重要部分可以看得稍微仔细一些,而对次要部分只是一带而过,甚至略去不读。在浏览时必须注意词语的肯定意思还是否定意思。例如最后第二段的第一句话 “The great problem in desalting is not whether it works, but how much it costs”,不能只看到 not,而必须同时看到该 not 是与后面的 but 相呼应的,表示了先否定后肯定的“一反一正”结构。不明白这点,在理解上就会犯方向性错误。最后第三段的第一句中的 not only ... but also ...,表示并列的成分在意思上具有相同一致的方向。

在阅读第三段中的 “They are trying to keep their rivers from being polluted” 一句中,如果一时看不出 to keep ... from ... (作“保持…不…”讲)具有否定含义,但是前面的 are trying (“正在争取”)和后面的动名词短语 being polluted (“受到污染”)也可以帮助你猜测句意是“使江河不受污染”。

如果你懂得构词法知识,那末对于文章中出现的 salty, desalt, distillation, daily, costly 也能在一定的上下文猜出其词义和所属词类。不难看出, salty 由名词 salt (盐)加-y 变成,属形容词。类似的词还有 rainy (雨的), snowy (雪的), windy (风的), cloudy (多云的)等。desalt 的前缀 de- 含有“除去”、“脱除”之意, desalt 就可理解为“脱盐”。类似的词还有 decolor (脱色), decompose (分解), decompress (排除压

力)等。后缀 -tion, -ation, -ion 一般都作名词词尾。daily 和 costly 系名词加 -ly 构成,变为形容词。但 daily 在倒数第三段文字中只能作副词用,不查词典也可通过阅读学到 daily 作副词的用法。

由此可见,掌握构词法,有利于扩大词汇量,从而提高了阅读速度。如果知识渊博,则根据上下文选择词义或猜测词义的准确率就高,从而更加快了阅读速度,并提高了阅读正确的程度(一般要求达到 70% 正确理解即可)。

注:“Fresh Water Factories”一文的参考译文见第 15 页。

Pure and Applied Science

As students of science you are probably sometimes puzzled by the terms “pure” and “applied” science. Are these two totally different activities, having little or no interconnection, as is often implied? Let us begin by examining what is done by each.

Pure science is primarily concerned with the development of theories establishing relationships between the phenomena of the universe. When they are sufficiently validated, these theories become the working laws or principles of science. In carrying out this work, the pure scientist usually disregards its application to practical affairs, confining his attention to explanations of how and why events occur.

Applied science, on the other hand, is directly

concerned with the application of the working laws of pure science to the practical affairs of life, and to increasing man's control over his environment, thus leading to the development of new techniques, processes and machines.

It is evident that many branches of applied science are practical extensions of purely theoretical or experimental work. Thus the study of radioactivity began as a piece of pure research, but its results are now applied in a great number of different ways. Conversely, work in applied science and technology frequently acts as a direct stimulus to the development of pure science. Such an interaction occurs, for example, when the technologist, in applying a particular concept of pure science to a practical problem, reveals a gap or limitation in the pure theoretical work, thus pointing the way for further basic research.

It seems, then, that these two branches of science are mutually dependent and interacting, and that the so-called division between the pure scientist and the applied scientist is more apparent than real.

浏览本文时, 第一段文字必读。阅读其它各段文字时, 仍把各段开头部分作为重点阅读内容, 阅读速度稍微放慢些。最后一段文字为结论性段落, 也应予以稍加注意。尤其最后一句“... the so-called division between the pure scientist and the applied scientist is more apparent than real” 必须正确理解。这里是两个形容词在比较, 即 *apparent* 胜过 *real*, 而不是 *more apparent* 构成 *apparent* 的比较级。如果对这一句没有

领会其肯定什么和否定什么，则对全文理解就会产生方向性的错误。

注：“Pure and Applied Science”一文的参考译文见第16页。

Political prisoners released

ISLAMABAD (Reuter via Xinhua) — Pakistan's military authorities freed more than 1,000 political prisoners on Saturday on the eve of the Muslim festival as an opposition civil disobedience campaign completed its fifth week.

The provincial government said it was releasing 961 people arrested during the campaign by the opposition Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) to enable them to celebrate the festival with their families.

The military governor of Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province, earlier ordered the release of 72 MRD supporters arrested there.

It was not immediately clear whether the people being freed included leaders of the eight banned parties which form the MRD.

上面是一篇国际政治新闻报导。阅读时除标题外，第一段是该报导的内容摘要。若要进一步看细节，则就继续读下去。

注：“Political prisoners released”一则报导的参考译文见第17页。

British pocket TV launched

LONDON (Reuter via Xinhua) — British micro-computer pioneer Clive Sinclair on Friday sparked an international sales battle in pocket-sized television sets with a model he claims. The model is the world's cheapest and most advanced.

Clive, who marketed the world's first pocket calculator a decade ago, unveiled his long-awaited micro-television set with a five-centimetre flat screen that will compete for markets against Japanese sets, hitherto alone in the field.

The Sinclair comes complete with headphones and folding aerial. It will be sold in Britain at 79.95 sterling (\$120). Sony, which last year introduced the world's first microtelevision set, sells one in Japan for \$162.

上面是一篇科技新闻报导。如果是翻阅报纸，则对于本文只看第一段和第三段即行。第三段内的关键词语是英国的微型电视机售价为 120 美元，而日本索尼的同类产品则为 162 美元。

注：“British pocket TV launched”一则报导的参考译文见第 18 页。

World briefs Poland picks up

WARSAW — Poland's economy has been steadily

picking up over the first eight months of this year, with industry, construction and agriculture at the head.

According to the statistics bureau report, the sale of industrial goods made by state-owned enterprises for the first eight months was 8.5 per cent higher than that of the same period last year.

上面是一条世界简讯。标题是“波兰复元”。浏览第一段时,见到“Poland's economy”和“over the first eight months of this year”,便进一步明白“波兰的经济得到了恢复”,“经历的时间是今年头八个月”。在第二段文字中,见到“the sale of industrial goods”和“was 8.5 per cent higher than ...”,便可知“工业品销售额增长 8.5%”。如果你浏览时能获得上述这些“信息”,一般可认为你的快速阅读理解的正确程度达到了 70%。如果你还能想起“with industry, construction and agriculture at the head”和“the sale of industrial goods made by state-owned enterprises ... than that of the same period last year”则你的阅读理解正确程度就超过 70%。如果你花了较多时间进行阅读,这就变为精读,不再是浏览。这时即使你的理解达到 100% 正确,那也是不足为奇的。

注:“Poland picks up”一则世界简讯的参考译文见第 18 页。

II. 查阅

查阅目的比较单纯,只是为了寻找某一个具体情况而进行的阅读,其速度应比浏览更快。平时我们翻阅百科全书、手册、火车时刻表、电话簿、文摘的索引、文艺节目单等,就采用查阅这种阅读方法。查阅时是带着待搜索的目标用眼睛进行“扫描”,并且这种“扫描”还是有方向性和区