应用型翻译系列教材

# A Practical Course on EST Translation

科技英语翻

孙昌坤 主编

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# 实用科技英语翻译

# A Practical Course on EST Translation

孙昌坤 **主** 编 李 红 鞠 伟 副主编

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# 实用科技英语翻译 A Practical Course on EST Translation

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# 出版说明

随着全球化进程的日益加快,市场上对于翻译人才的需求日渐增加,尤其是不同专业领域的翻译人才越来越受到青睐。许多高等院校开始重视专门用途英语(ESP)课程的开设,商务英语、法律英语、科技英语、旅游英语和新闻英语等,成为重要的 ESP 课程,也越来越受到相关专业学生、普通英语专业中有志于从事相关专业翻译学生的青睐。

为适应新的教学需要,满足社会对专业翻译人才的教学培养需求,对外经济贸易大学出版社策划出版了这套"应用型翻译系列教材",内容涵盖商务、法律、旅游、新闻、科技等各个方面。它不仅能满足翻译专业人士的需求,同时可作为全国高等院校英语专业(本科)选修课教材,翻译专业(本科、硕士)必修教材,也可以作为英语学习爱好者自学的专业读物。

本系列教材的作者均为全国重点高等院校翻译专业学科带头人和一线优秀教师,充分体现了当今专门英语翻译教育的发展方向和水平。具体书目包括《实用商务英语翻译》、《实用法律英语翻译(英汉双向)》、《实用科技英语翻译》、《实用旅游英语翻译(英汉双向)》、《实用新闻英语翻译(英汉双向)》和《法庭口译》等。

每册教材均配备有 PPT 课件 (网站下载 www.uibep.com),并根据课程内容选配教学 参考书或者 MP3 光盘,提供立体化教学资源辅助教学。

对外经济贸易大学出版社 2013 年 7 月

# 前言

翻译实践,熟能生巧,别无他途。科技翻译自然不例外。本教程突出实用性,可用 作本科生主修教材、硕士研究生辅助教材。也可作为翻译工作者和翻译爱好者的练习手 册使用。

我们在本教程的编写中突出翻译实践和译例,以便于讲解和自行练习。教程的每个单元由下面三个部分组成:

- 1. 篇章翻译。本部分为篇章翻译实践,编排上依照原文、生词、专有名词注释、翻译解析、参考译文的顺序排列,便于教师课堂上的讲解和实践安排。原文内容选自国外科技期刊和报纸,内容涉及基因技术、气候研究、动物学、资源管理、信息技术、太空探索、运动科学、机械科学等多个方面。译文全部由编著者自己翻译。
- 2. 翻译技巧。从分析科技英语的语言特点开始,涉及词、句法结构、篇章、网络资源的使用等几个方面。分析注重实际,讲解常用翻译技巧。
- 3. 翻译练习。分为两个部分。第一部分为巩固每一个单元翻译技巧涉及的内容,第 二部分为篇章翻译练习,练习参考译文由编著者自己翻译,放在全书的最后。

本教程共十个单元。教师可以灵活安排每个单元的课时。在使用时可以根据需要先讲述翻译技巧,再讲解篇章翻译;也可先实践,学生有一定的感性经验后,再讲解翻译技巧。每个单元的练习可以课内外结合处理。

教程的编写分工为: 孙昌坤负责全书的策划, UNIT ONE、UNIT TWO 的编写并审校全书; 李红负责 UNIT SIX、UNIT SEVEN、UNIT EIGHT 的编写; 鞠伟负责 UNIT FOUR、UNIT TEN 的编写; 林文峰负责 UNIT THREE 的编写; 路纬经负责 UNIT FIVE 的编写; 孙海灵负责 UNIT NINE 的编写。

本教程在编写过程中得到了对外经济贸易大学出版社的大力支持,我们在此表示衷心的感谢。特别要感谢出版社外语图书事业部宋海玲主任和田园编辑,感谢她们的辛勤劳动、理解与巨大耐心。我们还要特别感谢山东大学外国语学院院长王俊菊教授的信任和支持。山东大学外国语学院英汉翻译理论与实践方向 2011 级研究生徐倩倩审校了部分译文,我们在此也表示感谢。

本教程的编写是在教学之余完成的,其中错漏之处在所难免,敬请各位专家、学者 及广大使用者批评、指正。

> 编著者 2013 年 8 月于济南

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# **UNIT ONE**

# Ⅰ 篇章翻译

#### ☞ 原文

#### Genetically Modified Foods: Harmful or Helpful?

Environmental activists, religious organizations, public interest groups, professional associations and other scientists and government officials have all raised concerns about GM foods, and criticized agribusiness for pursuing profit without concern for potential hazards, and the government for failing to exercise adequate regulatory oversight. It seems that everyone has a strong opinion about GM foods. Even the Vatican and the Prince of Wales have expressed their opinions. Most concerns about GM foods fall into three categories: environmental hazards, human health risks, and economic concerns.

#### **Environmental hazards**

Unintended harm to other organisms. Last year a laboratory study was published in *Nature* showing that pollen from B.t. corn caused high mortality rates in monarch butterfly caterpillars. Monarch caterpillars consume milkweed plants, not corn, but the fear is that if pollen from B.t. corn is blown by the wind onto milkweed plants in neighboring fields, the caterpillars could eat the pollen and perish. Although the *Nature* study was not conducted under natural field conditions, the results seemed to support this viewpoint. Unfortunately, B.t. toxins kill many species of insect larvae indiscriminately; it is not possible to design a B.t. toxin that would only kill crop-damaging pests and remain harmless to all other insects. This study is being reexamined by the USDA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other non-government research groups, and preliminary data from new studies suggests that the original study may have been flawed. This topic is the subject of acrimonious debate, and both sides of the argument are defending their data vigorously. Currently, there is no agreement about the results of these studies, and the potential risk of harm to non-target organisms will need to be

#### evaluated further.

Reduced effectiveness of pesticides. Just as some populations of mosquitoes developed resistance to the now-banned pesticide DDT, many people are concerned that insects will become resistant to B.t. or other crops that have been genetically-modified to produce their own pesticides.

Gene transfer to non-target species. Another concern is that crop plants engineered for herbicide tolerance and weeds will cross-breed, resulting in the transfer of the herbicide resistance genes from the crops into the weeds. These "superweeds" would then be herbicide tolerant as well. Other introduced genes may cross over into non-modified crops planted next to GM crops. The possibility of interbreeding is shown by the defense of farmers against lawsuits filed by Monsanto. The company has filed patent infringement lawsuits against farmers who may have harvested GM crops. Monsanto claims that the farmers obtained Monsanto-licensed GM seeds from an unknown source and did not pay royalties to Monsanto. The farmers claim that their unmodified crops were cross-pollinated from someone else's GM crops planted a field or two away. More investigation is needed to resolve this issue.

There are several possible solutions to the three problems mentioned above. Genes are exchanged between plants via pollen. Two ways to ensure that non-target species will not receive introduced genes from GM plants are to create GM plants that are male sterile (do not produce pollen) or to modify the GM plant so that the pollen does not contain the introduced gene. Cross-pollination would not occur, and if harmless insects such as monarch caterpillars were to eat pollen from GM plants, the caterpillars would survive.

Another possible solution is to create buffer zones around fields of GM crops. For example, non-GM corn would be planted to surround a field of B.t. GM corn, and the non-GM corn would not be harvested. Beneficial or harmless insects would have a refuge in the non-GM corn, and insect pests could be allowed to destroy the non-GM corn and would not develop resistance to B.t. pesticides. Gene transfer to weeds and other crops would not occur because the wind-blown pollen would not travel beyond the buffer zone. Estimates of the necessary width of buffer zones range from 6 meters to 30 meters or more. This planting method may not be feasible if too much acreage is required for the buffer zones.

#### Human health risks

Allergenicity. Many children in the US and Europe have developed life-threatening allergies to peanuts and other foods. There is a possibility that introducing a gene into a plant may create a new allergen or cause an allergic reaction in susceptible individuals. A proposal to incorporate a gene from Brazil nuts into soybeans was abandoned because of the fear of causing unexpected allergic reactions. Extensive testing of GM foods may be required to avoid the possibility of harm to consumers with food allergies. Labeling of GM foods and food products will acquire new importance.

<u>Unknown effects on human health.</u> There is a growing concern that introducing foreign genes into food plants may have an unexpected and negative impact on human health. A recent article published in *Lancet* examined the effects of GM potatoes on the digestive tract in rats.

This study claimed that there were appreciable differences in the intestines of rats fed GM potatoes and rats fed unmodified potatoes. Yet critics say that this paper, like the monarch butterfly data, is flawed and does not hold up to scientific scrutiny. Moreover, the gene introduced into the potatoes was a snowdrop flower lectin, a substance known to be toxic to mammals. The scientists who created this variety of potato chose to use the lectin gene simply to test the methodology, and these potatoes were never intended for human or animal consumption.

On the whole, with the exception of possible allergenicity, scientists believe that GM foods do not present a risk to human health.

#### Economic concerns

Bringing a GM food to market is a lengthy and costly process, and of course agri-biotech companies wish to ensure a profitable return on their investment. Many new plant genetic engineering technologies and GM plants have been patented, and patent infringement is a big concern of agribusiness. Yet consumer advocates are worried that patenting these new plant varieties will raise the price of seeds so high that small farmers and third world countries will not be able to afford seeds for GM crops, thus widening the gap between the wealthy and the poor. It is hoped that in a humanitarian gesture, more companies and non-profits will follow the lead of the Rockefeller Foundation and offer their products at reduced cost to impoverished nations.

Patent enforcement may also be difficult, as the contention of the farmers that they involuntarily grew Monsanto-engineered strains when their crops were cross-pollinated shows. One way to combat possible patent infringement is to introduce a "suicide gene" into GM plants. These plants would be viable for only one growing season and would produce sterile seeds that do not germinate. Farmers would need to buy a fresh supply of seeds each year. However, this would be financially disastrous for farmers in third world countries who cannot afford to buy seed each year and traditionally set aside a portion of their harvest to plant in the next growing season. In an open letter to the public, Monsanto has pledged to abandon all research using this suicide gene technology. (1,183 words)



GM food = genetically modified food n. 转基因食物 agribusiness n. 农业综合企业

#### 4 ■ 实用科技英语翻译

oversight n. 监管 organism n. 生物体 pollen n. 花粉 B.t. = Bacillus thuringiensis n. 苏云金杆菌 caterpillar n. 毛虫; 鳞翅目幼虫 milkweed n. 乳草类植物 toxin n. 毒素 larvae n. 幼虫 (larva 的复数) indiscriminately adv. 不加区别地 acrimonious adj. 激烈的; 剧烈的 pesticide n. 杀虫剂 herbicide n. 除草剂 cross-breed n. 杂交 infringement n. 侵权 royalty n. 专利税 cross-pollinated adj. 异花授粉的 sterile adj. 不育的; 无生殖力的 buffer n. 缓冲 acreage n. 种植面积 allergenicity n. 过敏源 allergen n. 过敏原 susceptible adj. 易感的; 易受影响的 soybean n. 大豆 digestive tract n. 消化道 appreciable adj. 明显的; 可察觉的 intestine n. 肠道 snowdrop n. 雪花莲 lectin n. 凝集素 agri-biotech 农业生物技术 germinate v. 发芽 involuntarily adv. 无意识地; 非自愿地

# 注释

- 1. Monsanto Company: 孟山都公司。是一家跨国农业生物技术公司,该公司目前也是 转基因种子的领先生产商,总部设于美国密苏里州克雷沃克尔。
- 2. Vatican: 梵蒂冈。即梵蒂冈城国 (Stato della Città del Vaticano), 世界上最小的主权

- 国家,也是世界上人口最少的国家之一。
- 3. The Prince of Wales: 威尔士亲王,威尔士公国的元首,自 1301 年英格兰吞并威尔士之后,英王便将这个头衔赐予自己的长子。从此以后,给国王的男性继承人冠以"威尔士亲王"的头衔逐渐相沿成习,"威尔士亲王"便成了英国王储的同义词。
- 4. *Nature*:《自然》。英国著名杂志,是世界上最权威的科学杂志之一。杂志以报道科学世界中的重大发现、重要突破为使命,1869年创刊。
- 5. USDA: United States Department of Agriculture 美国农业部。
- 6. Lancet:《柳叶刀》。英国著名医学杂志,为世界上最悠久及最受重视的同行评审性质之医学期刊。1823 年由汤姆·魏克莱(Thomas Wakley)所创刊,他以外科用具"柳叶刀"(Lancet)为这份刊物命名。
- 7. the Rockefeller Foundation: 洛克菲勒基金会。1913 年由约翰·D·洛克菲勒创立, 是美国最早的私人基金会,也是世界上最有影响的少数基金会之一。

# 翻译解析

- 1. 【原文】Environmental activists, religious organizations, public interest groups, professional associations and other scientists and government officials have all raised concerns about GM foods, and criticized agribusiness for pursuing profit without concern for potential hazards, and the government for failing to exercise adequate regulatory oversight.
  - 【译文】环境保护主义者、宗教组织、公共利益团体、专业协会以及科学家和政府官员都越来越关注转基因食品的问题。他们批评农业综合企业不顾转基因食品的潜在危害追逐利益,批评政府没能进行充分的调控。
  - 【解析】原句只有一句,译文分为两句,便于句式的安排,可使句子层次更清楚。第二个分句中 "criticize"有两个宾语,一为 "agribusiness",一为 "the government",译文用并列结构解。
- 2. 【原文】Even the Vatican and the Prince of Wales have expressed their opinions.
  - 【译文】就连梵蒂冈和英国王储都表达过他们对转基因食品的意见。
  - 【解析】此处的"Prince of Wales"译为"英国王储"而不是"威尔士亲王",主要是考虑减少读者的认知障碍。
- 3. 【原文】Monarch caterpillars consume milkweed plants, not corn, but the fear is that if pollen from B.t. corn is blown by the wind onto milkweed plants in neighboring fields, the caterpillars could eat the pollen and perish.
  - 【译文】王蝶幼虫以乳草类植物为食,不是玉米,但人们担心如果苏云金杆菌玉米的 花粉被风吹到毗邻田地的乳草属植物上,幼虫就可能吃下花粉而死去。
  - 【解析】原文的 "consume" 意为 "吃"或"以……为食",两种意义都可以选择。原文以非人称名词 "fear"做主语,在译文中换成了人称名词"人们",更符合汉语的表达习惯。

#### 6 ■ 实用科技英语翻译

4. 【原文】Just as some populations of mosquitoes developed resistance to the now-banned pesticide DDT, many people are concerned that insects will become resistant to B.t. or other crops that have been genetically-modified to produce their own pesticides.

【译文】正如有些蚊子对现在已经禁止使用的杀虫剂 DDT 产生了抗体一样, 很多人 担心昆虫会对转基因苏云金杆菌玉米或其他作物产生抗体,从而需要人们生产出对 付它们的杀虫剂。

【解析】原文是个长句。翻译时应注意其逻辑关系。译文用"正如"、"从而"等关联词表示出原文的逻辑关系。此外,DDT英文为 Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane(双对氯苯基三氯乙烷),长期以来习惯相承的是直接用英文的缩略语或用音译"滴滴涕",此处选择用 DDT。

5. 【原文】Genes are exchanged between plants via pollen.

【译文】基因通过花粉在作物间交换。

【解析】译文要注意 "exchange" 一词的翻译。因为是 "between plants", 所以解为 "交换"而不是"转换"更为贴切。

6. 【原文】Two ways to ensure that non-target species will not receive introduced genes from GM plants are to create GM plants that are male sterile (do not produce pollen) or to modify the GM plant so that the pollen does not contain the introduced gene.

【译文】保证非目标物种不会从转基因作物上接受导入基因的方法有两种:一是创造 出雄性不育(即不产花粉)的转基因作物;二是改造转基因作物以使花粉不含导入 基因。

【解析】原文的主谓结构为 "Two ways are",译文把修饰语 "to ensure"结构放到前面做定语,后面用 "一是""二是"相承,层次上更为清晰。

7. 【原文】Many children in the US and Europe have developed life-threatening allergies to peanuts and other foods.

【译文】美国以及欧洲的许多孩子对花生和其他食物有过敏反应,这甚至会危及生命。

【解析】译文把"life-threatening"作为外位结构处理,单独成句,使译文结构上更为合理,意义更明晰。如果依照原文的结构翻译为"对花生和其他食物有致命的过敏反应",则译文很难理解。

8. 【原文】Labeling of GM foods and food products will acquire new importance.

【译文】从这点来看,把转基因食物和食物产品标示出来就有了一层新的意义。

【解析】依照语境来理解,这里的"labeling"是"做标示"的意思。

9. 【原文】This study claimed that there were appreciable differences in the intestines of rats fed GM potatoes and rats fed unmodified potatoes.

【译文】这项研究表明喂食转基因土豆的老鼠和喂食非转基因土豆的老鼠肠道有明显的差异。

【解析】"appreciable" 意为 "sufficient to be readily perceived or estimated; considerable", 依照上下文,翻译为"明显"。"fed" 依照语境,为"喂食"之意,解为"吃"不妥。

- 10. 【原文】It is hoped that in a humanitarian gesture, more companies and non-profits will follow the lead of the Rockefeller Foundation and offer their products at reduced cost to impoverished nations.
  - 【译文】人们希望从人道主义角度考虑,更多的公司和公益机构会以洛克菲勒基金会 为榜样,将他们的产品以较低的成本销售给贫穷国家。
  - 【解析】被动结构"It is hoped"转为主动形式"人们希望"。"non-profits"解为"非营利性机构"增加"机构"使其与"公司"对应,也使语义结构完善。
- 11. 【原文】However, this would be financially disastrous for farmers in third world countries who cannot afford to buy seed each year and traditionally set aside a portion of their harvest to plant in the next growing season.
  - 【译文】然而,这种做法对第三世界国家无力每年都购买种子的农民来说是一种经济上的灾难,因为传统上,他们的做法是从收获的粮食中留出种子以备下一个耕种季再种。
  - 【解析】原文讲到了转基因作物对第三世界国家可能带来的经济影响,并把农人们传统的做法解释了一下。译文把后半部分内容用"因为"解出原文两个部分之间潜在的逻辑关系。"a portion of"做了必要的删节。

#### ☞ 参考译文

## 转基因食品:有害还是有益?

环境保护主义者、宗教组织、公共利益团体、专业协会以及科学家和政府官员都越来越关注转基因食品的问题。他们批评农业综合企业不顾转基因食品的潜在危害追逐利益,批评政府没能进行充分的调控。似乎每个人都对转基因食品非常有心得。就连梵蒂冈和英国王储都表达过他们对转基因食品的意见。多数人对转基因食品的关注点有三个: 1. 环境危害; 2. 人的健康危险; 3. 经济因素。

#### 1. 环境危害

对其他生物的意外伤害。 去年,《自然》杂志发表的一项实验室研究表明,苏云金杆菌玉米的花粉导致大量王蝶幼虫死亡。王蝶幼虫以乳草类植物为食,不是玉米,但人们担心如果苏云金杆菌玉米的花粉被风吹到毗邻田地的乳草属植物上,幼虫就可能吃下花粉而死去。虽然《自然》的这个研究并不是在自然田野条件下进行的,但结果看起来很支持这种观点。很不幸的是,苏云金杆菌毒素很随意地就能杀死许多种昆虫的幼虫。要专门制造一种只杀死危害作物的害虫而又不会伤害其他昆虫的苏云金杆菌毒素是不可能的。美国农业部,美国环境保护组织以及其他非政府研究团体正在对这一研究重新审视,而新的研究带来的最初数据表明原来的研究可能存在缺陷。这个话题引起了激烈的论辩,论辩的双方都在极力证明自己的数据。目前,关于研究结果还没有达成一致的意见,转基因食品对非目标生物潜在的危害也需要进一步评估。

杀虫剂效能的降低。正如有些蚊子对现在已经禁止使用的杀虫剂 DDT 产生了抗体

一样,很多人担心昆虫会对转基因苏云金杆菌玉米或其他作物产生抗体,从而需要人们生产出对付它们的杀虫剂。

基因转移给非目标物种。另外一个令人关注的问题是这些依照设计耐除草剂的作物会和杂草杂交,结果会把耐除草剂的基因从作物传给杂草。接下来这些"超级杂草"也会变得耐除草剂。其他导入基因可能会传到临近转基因作物种植的非目标作物上。农民们在遭到孟山都公司的投诉后为自己的辩护就表明了这种杂交存在的可能性。该公司起诉农民专利侵权,收获了该公司所有的转基因作物。公司声称农民们从不明渠道获得了孟山都专利的转基因种子,但没有支付专利税给孟山都。农民们则声称他们的非转基因作物受到相邻地块种植转基因作物的异花授粉。要解决这个纠纷还需要更多的调查。

对于上述三个问题有几种可能的解决办法。基因通过花粉在作物间交换。保证非目标物种不会从转基因作物上接受导入基因的方法有两种:一是创造出雄性不育(即不产花粉)的转基因作物;二是改造转基因作物以使花粉不含导入基因。这样异花授粉不会发生,而如果诸如王蝶幼虫这样的无害昆虫吃了来自转基因作物上的花粉,它们也不会死去。

另一个可能的解决办法就是在转基因作物田地周围设立缓冲带。比如,在苏云金杆菌玉米地周围种上非转基因玉米,而这些非转基因玉米不收获。益虫和害虫会在非转基因玉米地找到避难所,可以允许使用杀虫剂毁掉非转基因玉米,而不会有害虫对苏云金杆菌杀虫剂产生抗体。基因转移到杂草和其他作物上的事情也不会发生,因为花粉不会被风吹过缓冲区。估计必要的缓冲区宽度在 6 米~30 米或更宽。但如果缓冲区需要的面积太大,这种种植方法可能并不可行。

#### 2. 对人的健康危险

过敏源。美国以及欧洲的许多孩子对花生和其他食物有过敏反应,这甚至会危及生命。将一种基因导入一种植物可能形成一种新的过敏原或导致易感人群的过敏反应。这些都有可能。曾有人提议把一种巴西坚果的基因导入大豆,但该提议被放弃,因为人们担心这会造成意想不到的过敏反应。需要对转基因食品做广泛验证以避免他们可能对食物过敏者造成伤害。从这点来看,把转基因食物和食物产品标示出来就有了一层新的意义。

对人类健康的未知影响。越来越多的人担心将一种异质的基因导入作物可能会对人类健康带来意想不到的负面影响。最近英国医学杂志《柳叶刀》刊发了一篇文章,探讨了转基因土豆对老鼠消化道的影响。

这项研究表明喂食转基因土豆的老鼠和喂食非转基因土豆的老鼠,肠道有明显的差异。然而有评论者认为这篇文章,同关于王蝶幼虫的文章一样,在数据方面有缺陷,经不起细致的科学审查。而且,试验中导入土豆的基因是雪花莲花凝集素,而这种物质已知对哺乳动物有毒害作用。制造这种土豆的科学家选择利用凝集素基因只是为了检验研究方法,他们从未想过把这些土豆给人或动物食用。

总之,除了可能导致过敏反应,科学家们相信转基因食品并不对人类的健康构成 危险。

#### 3. 经济因素

将转基因食品推向市场是一个漫长、高成本的过程,自然农业生物技术公司希望能够得到好的投资回报。许多新的作物基因工程技术和转基因植物都申请了专利,专利侵权成为农业综合企业关注的一大问题。然而消费者担心将新的植物品种申请专利会大大提高种子的价格,导致小的农场主和第三世界国家无力购买转基因作物种子,从而拉大贫富之间的差距。人们希望从人道主义角度考虑,更多的公司和公益机构会以洛克菲勒基金会为榜样,将他们的产品以较低的成本销售给贫穷国家。

正如前述农场主争议的那样,他们的作物异花授粉,无意中种了孟山都公司的转基因品种,这使得专利执法也变得困难。抵制可能的专利侵权的一个办法就是在转基因植物中导入一种"自杀基因"。这些作物的生长发育期只有一季,此后便会产生绝育种子不再发芽。每年农场主都需要购买新的种子。然而,这种做法对第三世界国家无力每年都购买种子的农民来说是一种经济上的灾难,因为传统上,他们的做法是从收获的粮食中留出种子以备下一个耕种季再种。在致大众的一封公开信中,孟山都公司已经承诺放弃所有使用自杀基因技术的研究。

# Ⅲ 翻译技巧

## 科技英语的语言特点

要做好科技英语的翻译,我们需要先了解科技英语的语言特点。在此之前,我们先看一下什么是科技英语。科技英语,英文为 English for Science and Technology, 简单地说就是表达科技概念、理论与事实的英语语域。由于科技概念、理论与事实的特殊性,这种语言体系本身在词汇、句法结构和语篇等方面也就有了自己的特点。在我们平时的阅读中,科技英语主要呈现为论文、科技新闻、综述、实验报告、教材、专利、说明书等形式,虽然形式不同,但它们在词汇、句法和语篇方面却有着很多共同的特点。这里我们从词汇、句法结构和语篇等几个层面简要谈谈科技英语的语言特点。

#### 1. 词汇层面

词是语言的基本单位,一种文体的特殊性,往往在词层面的表现最明显,在所有的 文体中,词的变化也最活跃。科技英语在用词方面突出的特点表现在专业词汇的大量应 用、构词方式灵活以及对日常词汇的借用等几个方面。

1) 专业术语的大量应用。

由于科技英语是表达科技概念、理论与事实的英语语域,所以专业性强,专业术语的大量应用也就是应有的特点。我们来看一段文字:

Mammals, fish, and birds have all evolved different systems of <u>sex chromosomes</u> that determine whether an organism is male or female, but the *Foxl2* and *Sox9* genes are conserved

in all <u>vertebrates</u>. So Treier says that the <u>yin-yang balance</u> between the two is probably active in maintaining sex in a wide variety of animals. Several species of fish are known to be able to change their gender in adulthood, and Sinclair says the new results may explain how that happens. The pathway is also interesting for researchers studying early <u>ovarian failure</u>, which causes some women to undergo early <u>menopause</u>. And it may also help explain why some children develop <u>sexual characteristics</u> that don't match their <u>chromosomal gender</u>.

哺乳动物,鱼类,鸟类等都进化出不同的染色体以决定某一个生物体是雄性还是雌性,但所有的脊椎动物都有 foxl2 和 sox9 基因。因此特里尔认为两者之间的阴阳平衡在保持大量不同动物性别特征方面可能非常重要。人们已经认识到有些鱼类在成年后能改变性别,辛克莱尔说新的研究成果可以解释为什么会发生这样的事。对于研究早期卵巢功能丧失的研究者来说,这种基因通道也让人很感兴趣,因为这导致有些妇女过早闭经。这也有助于解释为什么有些孩子的性别特征与他们的染色体性别不符。

上面这一段短短的文字中,就出现了诸如 sex chromosome, organism, Foxl2 gene, Sox9 gene, vertebrate, yin-yang balance, ovarian failure, menopause, sexual characteristic, chromosomal gender 等专业术语,突出地显示了科技文体中术语较多的特点。

2) 构词方式灵活多样。

当今世界,科技日新月异,发展迅速。由于科技不断创新,科技文体在词汇层面也表现出很强的创新性。英语词汇中的各种构词方式在科技英语中都得到淋漓尽致的使用。比如:

A. 复合词

full-enclosed 全封闭的(形+动+ed)

on-and-off-the-road 路面越野双用的(多词合成)

anti-armoured-fighting-vehicle-missile 反装甲车导弹(多词合成)

colormeter 色度计

radiophotography 无线电传真

B. 缩略词

ft (foot) 英尺

cpd (compound) 化合物

oz (ounce) 盎司

FM (frequency modulation) 调频

SQUID Superconducting Quantum Interference Devices 超导量子干涉磁强计

SHRIMP sensitive high resolution ion microprobe 高灵敏度离子探针

FROG frequency-resolved optical gating 频率分辨光学开关

LED light-emitting diode 发光二极管

DNA deoxyribonucleic acid 脱氧核糖核酸

RAM Randam-access Memory 随机存取存储器

C. 派生词

nanotube=nano+tube 纳米管