



# 科技英语疑难句型的 理解与翻译

王纯真 著

全面解读科技英语疑难句型，  
本硕阶段英语阅读与翻译必备知识。



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# 前言

这本小书可说是我自学英语的札记。从1978年荣幸受命任教英语开始,我这个从未上过大学的人,只能兢兢业业,边教边学,不敢有丝毫懈怠。1982年至1988年,我尝试着把教和学中的一些感悟和心得写成短文,寄给《科技英语学习》《大学英语》等刊物,前后七年共有十几篇得以发表,其中大部分内容集中在一些疑难词语和句型的理解方面,这些正是我在自学过程中有过困惑,有所发现,因而印象也特别深刻的地方。比如, $N_1 + N_2 +$ 后置修饰语,这种句型中,并列项后面的修饰语是修饰 $N_2$ 呢,还是修饰 $N_1 + N_2$ 二者呢?我在一些译文中碰到不少因判断错误或根本不加判断而译错的例子。再如多级修饰、割裂修饰、联合结构(多枝共干句型)以及否定范围等,都是句法中的重要而又容易搞错的内容。学英语,如果满足于和老外交谈,满足于快速阅读,浏览大意,那自然无需对这些劳什子费心伤神,可是你如果需要深度阅

读,需要准确理解文本,甚至于要译成汉语,那么,这些问题肯定是绕不开的。本书中所举的一些误译的例子,都出自当时的正式出版物,正好说明它们是不可忽视的,即使对于有较高专业素养者也是如此。

1989年,以这些文章为基础写成的讲义,曾作为理工专业研究生和教师英语进修班的教材用过几次,学员的反应颇好,“内容新颖”、“例句精彩”等评语,对我既是褒扬,也是鞭策。同年开始,我受友人之邀,先后参加了四部辞书的编纂工作,一干就是8年,自己喜欢的句法研究也就中断了,想来真是百感交集。如今把这部小书公诸于世,也算是聊以自慰吧。

王纯真

2013年3月,镇江

# 目 录

第 1 讲	more (...) than 和 rather than .....	1
第 2 讲	no more (...) than 和 not so much (...) as .....	8
第 3 讲	before .....	15
第 4 讲	when 引导的从句 .....	21
第 5 讲	since 和 until .....	28
第 6 讲	and .....	34
第 7 讲	this, that, whatever, what, while .....	39
第 8 讲	given 短语 .....	45
第 9 讲	否定范围和否定焦点 .....	49
第 10 讲	部分否定和全部否定 .....	55
第 11 讲	否定句 + without 短语; 否定词 + as 从句 .....	61

第 12 讲	表示肯定和强调的几种易混句型 .....	66
第 13 讲	并列结构与修饰关系 .....	71
第 14 讲	联合结构——多枝共干 .....	80
第 15 讲	并列句中的省略 .....	86
第 16 讲	并列成分的对称、分隔与层次 .....	91
第 17 讲	割裂修饰 .....	97
第 18 讲	多级修饰 .....	101
第 19 讲	特殊同位语 .....	105
第 20 讲	倒装句型之一:述谓部分前置 .....	111
第 21 讲	倒装句型之二:宾语前置 .....	114
第 22 讲	关联与搭配 .....	118
练习参考译文	.....	125
主要参考文献	.....	140
附录	.....	141
偏正对调的译法	.....	141
英译汉中的动宾搭配问题	.....	144
英译汉中 NP 向主谓结构的转化	.....	147
怎样避免译文句子中的大跨度	.....	152

## 第1讲 more(...)than 和 rather than

### I

more than 的基本含义是“多于”、“大于”、“超过”。在不同的语境中,可以由此引申出多种不同的用法和译法。

---

**more than** 后面与名词连用时,表示“不仅仅是”。  
例如:

1. A Boys Club really is more than just a club. It's a pool, a hand, a friend, a school, a team.

男孩俱乐部绝不仅仅是一个俱乐部。它是同心协力的场所,是援助之手,是朋友,是一所学校,是一个小团队。

2. Science is more than a mere accumulation of carefully collected facts. It is also a method of solving problems.

科学不仅仅是精心收集的事实的积累。它还是一种解决问题的方法。

3. Now, for the first time, man can reasonably begin to think that life can be something more than a grim struggle for survival.

现在人类第一次有理由开始相信,生活不仅仅是为了生存而进行的痛苦挣扎。



4. More than the new factories or new schools, the change that most impresses travelers to the south today is the improvement in the land itself.

新工厂和新学校固然给今天到南方去旅行的人留下深刻印象,但给他们印象最深的则是这片土地本身的提升。

**more than** 与形容词、副词连用时,对该形容词或副词所表示的性状加以强调,言其程度超过了该词所能表示的程度,有“不止是”、“非常”、“十分”等含义。例如:

5. We were more than happy to hear of your escape.  
听说你逃了出来,我们感到非常高兴。

6. It is more than probable that he will fail.  
十之八九他会失败。

7. She was dressed more than simply.  
她穿得岂止是朴素,简直近乎破烂。

**more than** 与动词连用也有与上述相似的加强语义的作用。例如:

8. The discovery of new coal mines will more than increase the coal output of our country.  
新煤矿的发现将大大地增加我国的煤产量。

9. Our two nations should do more than agree routinely on the misdeeds of that country.

对于那个国家的胡作非为,我们两国不应只限于例行公事地表示意见一致。

(此例中的 do more than 相当于 not only)

II

more A than B——这种句型用来对同一事物的两种不同的性质或状态进行比较;强调 A 而忽视 B, 或肯定 A 而否定 B(A 和 B 是两个对称的成分, 可以是名词、形容词、介词短语等)。常译成“是……不是……”, “与其说……不如说……”等。例如:

---

10. He is more brave than wise.

他有勇无谋。

11. You are more of a hindrance than a help.

你与其说是助手, 不如说是个累赘。

12. It is more grey than brown.

它与其说是棕色, 不如说是灰色(它更像灰色而不像棕色)。

13. He was more frightened than hurt.

他没有受什么伤, 倒是受惊不轻。

14. They pulled him out of water more dead than alive.

他们把他从水里拉上来时, 他已半死不活。

15. The school possessed the biggest swimming bath I had ever seen. It was more like the bend of a river than a bath.

这个学校拥有我从未见过的最大的游泳池。其实, 与其说是游泳池倒不如说它更像一条河湾。

16. The science of metallurgy came about more by chance than by any planned aim on the part of those engaged in it.

冶金学的问世并不是从事这一行业的匠人们预先计划好的目标, 而只不过是偶然的发现罢了。

有时,连在一起用的 **more than** 可以代替 **more...than** 的这种用法。例如:

17. He obtained his position by favour more than by merit and ability.

他谋得职位靠的是别人的偏爱而不是他的长处和能力。

18. He owes his success to good luck more than to ability.  
他的成功多半靠幸运,小半靠能力。



**more than...can** 有明显的否定含义,表示“超过了所能……的程度”,“简直不可能……”。例如:

19. Your temper is more than I can bear.  
你的脾气我简直受不了。

20. The beauty of the place is more than I can describe.  
这个地方景色之美我简直难以形容。



**less than** 和 **less...than...**,用法分别与 **more than**, **more...than...**相似,但语义相反。以 **less...than...** 为例, **more A than B = less B than A**。例如:

He was more frightened than hurt.  
= He was less hurt than frightened.

21. They were less than delighted to stay in town.  
他们不乐意待在城里。

22. His cruelty suggests that he is less than human.

他的残忍表示他没有人性。

23. The novel *Main Street* is less an attack on small towns than on the illusion of small-town life.

《大街》这部小说主要不是抨击小镇本身,而是抨击对小镇生活的错觉。



rather than 通常连接两个对称的成分; A rather than B 表示肯定 A 而否定 B, “是 A 而不是 B”。

例如:

24. Glass fibers carry light rather than electricity.

玻璃纤维传送的是光,而不是电。

25. These inquiries depended on quantity rather than on quality.

这些调查重量不重质。

26. Unlike earlier prophets, Gallup based his investigations on sociological rather than purely arithmetical calculations.

盖洛普不同于早期的预测家,他的调查是以社会学为根据,而不是纯粹凭数学计算。

27. In special cases materials may be quenched in air or sand rather than in liquids.

在特殊情况下,材料可以放在空气中或沙中,而不是在水中淬火。

如果说上述句型表示的是客观判断的选择,那么 would rather...than, would...rather than, prefer...rather than 则表示主观愿望的选择(宁肯……而不……)。例如:

28. He would choose death rather than surrender.

他宁死不屈。

29. I'd rather stay with John than with Tom.

我宁愿和约翰在一起不愿和汤姆在一起。

30. Edison preferred to continue his work rather than rest on his achievements.

爱迪生宁愿继续他的工作,而不是满足于他的成就,止步不前。

### Translation Exercises

1. Science is more than a collection of unrelated facts.

2. It has become clear that they intend to have rather more than a nominal control over administration.

3. I love wisdom more than she loves me.

4. The amounts of protein you need depends more on your size and age than on your activity.

5. I was more than surprised that she had been telling the truth.

6. There is more in it than you imagine.

7. He was more mad than stupid.

8. The book seems to be more a dictionary than a grammar.

9. This is more than I can tell.

10. His lecture left me less than satisfactory.

11. The day may not be very long in coming when coal and oil will be used as raw materials rather than as fuels.

12. When the first spaceship lands on Mars and Venus, it

will probably have on board robots rather than human beings.

13. 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.

14. Perhaps it does seem strange for a modern scientist to study toads, blind fish, or spiders. To some, this may sound more like medieval magic than modern science.

15. He was a small man, his hair white with suffering rather than age...It seemed as if he had not great strength of body; he appeared to be rather a worker with the mind than with the hands.

## 第2讲 no more(...)than 和 not so much(...)as

### I

与前述 more than(不仅仅是)含义相反的词组是 no more than 和 little more than(不过是,只是)。

例如:

---

1. He is no more than a puppet.

他不过是一个傀儡。

2. The simplest sort of reactor is no more than a pile of graphite bricks.

最简单的一种核反应堆不过是一堆石墨砖。

3. Before Galup, political predictions were no more than shots in the dark.

在盖洛普之前,搞政治预测简直像在黑暗中打靶。

4. Several years passed before the public regarded Bell's telephone as little more than a toy to be exhibited at lectures.

几年过去了,人们才只不过把贝尔的电话机看作和玩具差不多的东西,可以在讲课时展示出来。

5. For two decades the Statue of Liberty was little more than a grandiose notion, an improbable dream concocted at a dinner party.

在整整二十年中,自由女神像只不过是一个宏伟的设想,一个在晚宴上编造的不能实现的梦。

II

把 more than 放在否定句或有否定含义的结构中,形成 no ... more than, impossible ... more than, without ... more than 等组合,也可以表示“不过是”的含义。例如:

---

6. Spiders are busy for at least half the year in killing insects. It is impossible to make more than the wildest guess at how many they kill.

蜘蛛一年中至少有一半时间忙于捕食昆虫。它们到底能消灭多少昆虫,只能做极其粗略的估计。

7. The smaller albatross may keep company with the vessel for an hour without visible or more than occasional movement of wing.

这种小型的信天翁能陪伴着船飞行一小时之久而看不出翅膀有什么动作,或者只是偶尔扇动一下翅膀。

8. No picture ever taken can convey more than a hint of the magnificence and immensity of the Great Wall of China.

无论什么样的摄影,充其量也只能反映出中华巍巍长城宏伟壮观之万一罢了。





no more...than...(或 not...any more than...)是一种通过比较来表示否定的句型。否定的重点在than前面,而than后面的分句不过起个对比和反衬的作用,有时通过反语的形式,表示一种荒谬的或显而易见不可能的事情。这样,通过比较而鲜明地表达出前一分句的否定含义。常见的译法有(按甲在前乙在后而言):

(1) 某甲不……正如某乙不……

(2) 某乙不……某甲也不……

(3) 某甲和某乙一样不……

---

9. A panda is no more a cat than a dog is.

熊猫不是猫,犹如狗不是猫一样。

10. He is no more a god than we are.

他和我们一样都不是神。

11. I could no more do that than fly.

正如我不会飞那样,我也不会做那个。

12. He cannot speak French any more than I can.

我不会说法语,他也不会。

13. I could not do that any more than you.

你固然不能做那事,我一样不能做。

14. We have no more right to consume happiness without producing it than to consume wealth without producing it. (B. Shaw)

如果我们不创造幸福,我们就无权享受幸福;这正如没有创造财富就无权享受财富一样。(萧伯纳)