

Technical English

For Information and Communication
Engineering

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Translation

Methods and Skills

Translation: Methods and Skills



- **翻译定义：**翻译是人类交流思想过程中沟通不同语言的桥梁，使通晓不同语言的人能通过原文的重新表达而进行思想交流。翻译是把一种语言（原语）的信息用另一种语言（译语）表达出来，使译文读者得到原文作者所表达的意思，**得到与原文读者大致相同的感受。**
- **决定科技翻译质量的几个因素，缺一不可：**
 - 外语水平
 - 汉语水平
 - （科技、专业）知识水平
 - 工作态度

Translation: Methods and Skills



- **翻译技巧和翻译理论。**掌握技巧重要，但为了提高翻译质量尚需研究翻译规律，解决三个问题：
 - 翻译的性质、目的、特点、基本要求。
 - 翻译的标准，什么是好的翻译。
 - 翻译中遇到的各种实际问题。
- **翻译技巧：**
 - 词义引申
 - 增减词
 - 重复
 - 省略
 - 词类和成分转换

Translation: Methods and Skills



■ 技巧不能解决的一些问题:

– 用词的不同

- ID card 工作证
- an off season 淡季
- Stop thief! 抓小偷!
- black coffee 不加牛奶的咖啡
- black tea 红茶

– 词的搭配

- make money 挣钱
- wet snow 雨夹雪
- a heavy snow 一场大雪
- asymmetric bars 高低杠

4

Translation: Methods and Skills



■ 技巧不能解决的一些问题 (续):

– 语言结构

- No comments 无可奉告
- No Smoking 禁止吸烟
- This is VOA, signing on. 美国之音现在开始播音。

– 语言习惯

- education program 培养计划

5

Translation: the Process



1. 理解阶段: 正确理解原文是翻译的基础。领会原作后才动手翻译, 对原文理解不透甚至错误必然造成乱译和死译, 要具备必要的专业知识。

A stress is therefore set up between the two surfaces which may cause the glass to break.

- 错译为: 因而在引起玻璃破裂的两个表面之间产生一个应力。
- 宜译为: 因而在这两个表面之间产生一个使玻璃破裂的应力。
(为使句子较平衡, 避免头重脚轻, 定语从句被分裂。从技术内容, 使玻璃杯破裂的是“应力”, 而非“表面”。)

Various speeds may be obtained by the use of large and small pulleys.

- 错译为: 利用大小滑轮可以获得不同的转速。
- 宜译为: 利用大小皮带轮可以获得不同的转速。(使机器变速的应是皮带轮。)

6

Translation: the Process



2. 表达阶段: 从汉语中选择恰当的表达手法, 将理解的原文意思重述出来。理解: 钻进去; 表达: 跳出来, 不可受原文束缚。理解正确不一定能表达正确。对翻译技巧的运用体现翻译的创造性。

Action is equal to reaction, but it acts in a contrary direction.

- 译文一: 作用与反作用相等, 但它向相反的方向起作用。(未跳出原文束缚, 死译。)
- 译文二: 作用与反作用相等, 但作用的方向相反。(较好。)
- 译文三: 作用力与反作用力大小相等, 方向相反。(摆脱了原文束缚, 用了汉语中的对偶修辞手法, 最好。)

7

Translation: the Process



3. 校改：不要看一句译一句，应看一小段再译，不要使译文成为孤立句子的堆积。译完后要校改。

Milling machines are found in one form or another in almost every metal-working operation from machine shops to high speed production lines.

- 原译：从金工车间到高速生产线，几乎在每次金属加工中都找到这样或那样型号的铣床。
- 初校：从金工车间到高速生产线，几乎在每次金属加工中都有这样或那样型号的铣床。
- 复校：从金工车间到高速生产线，几乎每次金属切削加工都用得上某种型号的铣床。
- 定稿：从金工车间到高速生产线，几乎每次金属切削都离不开某种型号的铣床。

8

Translation: the Features



■ 翻译的特点：

- 人云亦云，不可更改：不可改变原文的意见、观点等，不可增删。
- 先理解，后动笔：在理解基础上开始翻译，不可看一句翻一句。
- 克服原语干扰：不局限于一词一句，用译语方式重新表达原意。

■ 科技翻译的难处：

- 理解的困难：对原文科技含义的正确理解是正确翻译的基础。译者不明白的地方，译出来也很难被读者理解。靠阅读译文来理解高深的科技问题有很大的局限性，如有条件应尽量读原文。
- 语言表达和习惯的差异：要“钻进去，跳出来”，不可死抠原文。

Earlier scientists thought that during a man's lifetime the power of his brain decreased.

早些时候的科学家们认为，在人的一生中脑子的机能会逐渐减弱。过去科学家认为，人越老，脑子的机能越衰退。

9

Translation: the Features



■ 避免两种极端：

- 死译：钻进去，跳不出来。
- 乱译：为追求“优美流畅”而随心所欲，不忠实于原文。

■ 翻译和写作的难易之比较：

- 鲁迅：“我向来总以为翻译比创作容易，因为至少是无须构想。但到真的一译，就会遇到难关，譬如一个名词或动词，写不出，创作时可以回避，翻译上却不成，也还得想，一直弄到头昏眼花，好象在脑子里摸一个急于要開箱子的钥匙，却没有。”
- 只看见容易的一面，看不到困难的一面，因而不肯下工夫去钻研解决。这是不少翻译者的通病，也是译文质量不高的症结所在。

10

Translation Skills



■ 词义转译：

- **Laser is one of the most sensational development in the 20th century.** 激光是20世纪轰动一时的科学成就之一。（不译“发展”）
- **Zinc is easy to obtain from its ore.** 提炼，不译“获得”。
- **Solar energy seems to offer more hope than any other source of energy.** 太阳能似乎比其他能源更有前途。（不译“给出更多希望”）

■ 词义抽象化：将原文较具体的词转译为较为抽象的词。

- **These devices will see use in the output stage.** 这些器件将在输出级中得到应用。
- **There are three steps which must be taken before we graduate from the integrated circuit technology.** 我们要完全掌握集成电路，还必须经过三个阶段。（不译“毕业于”）

11

Translation Skills



- 词义具体化：将原文词义较笼统的词转译为较具体的词。
 - Yet the transistor will do most of the *things* a triode tube will do. 然而晶体管能起真空三极管所能起的大部分作用。
 - When we speak, sound waves begin to travel and go in all directions. 我们说话时，声波就开始传播，并向四面八方扩散。
- 词的适当搭配：引申词义以适应译语。
 - Rubber and glass are commonly used to resist electric current. 橡胶和玻璃常用来隔绝电流。（不译“抵抗电流”，引申动词以适应名词）
 - Proton has a positive charge. 质子带正电。（不译“有电荷”）
 - An insulator offers a very high resistance to the current. 绝缘体对电流有很大的阻力。（不译“很高”，引申形容词以适应名词）
 - We used to differentiate between heavy current engineering and light current engineering. （强电、弱电，不译“重电”和“轻电”）

12

Translation Skills: More Examples



- indicate, show, demonstrate 均有“指出”，“指示”的意思。当主语为 experiment, result, figure 等时，译成：“实验证明”，“结果表明”，“图2说明”，等等。
- Nitrogen forms about four fifth of the atmosphere. 占五分之四（转义）
- Perhaps the only trouble with copper was that it was not hard enough. 缺点（转义）
- When sunlight falls on the leaves it is transformed into chemical energy. 照（转义）
- Different systems of gases produce flames of different colors. 不同气体的组合（转义）

13

Translation Skills: More Examples



- There are many things that should be considered in determining cutting speed. 因素，切削（具体化）
- The moon turns around once itself while going around the earth. 月球绕地球旋转一周的同时也自转一周。（具体化）
- The increase in pressure with depth makes it difficult for a diver to go deep far below the water surface. 潜入（具体化）
- Steel and cast iron also differ in carbon. 含碳量（抽象化）
- The shortest distance between raw material and a finished part is casting. 最简便的方法（抽象化）

14

Equivalence of Words



- 完全对等：专有名词、专业术语
 - Radar=雷达, New York=纽约, leukemia=白血病, Peking University=北京大学
- 词的多义性引起的不完全对等，如 pull 和“拉”：

– pull the door	拉门
– pull apart	拉断
– pull open the drawer	拉开抽屉
– He pulled my sleeve.	他拉了拉我的袖子。
– pull a tooth	拔牙
– pull in	（车）进站
– pull round	恢复健康
– pull together	齐心协力
– cheering squad	拉拉队
– diarrhea	拉肚子
– forget about it	拉倒

15

Equivalence of Words



■ 对等词之间的含义也有差异:

- wife 妻子, 老婆, 爱人, 夫人
- marry 嫁, 娶
- cousin 堂兄弟姐妹, 表兄弟姐妹
- factory, plant, mill, works 工厂
- teenage (指13岁~19岁) 青少年 (8、9岁至20来岁)
- intellectual (有学问者) 知识分子 (上过学, 有知识者)
- scholar (学习者, 包括有学问者) 学者 (学识渊博者)

16

Equivalence of Words



■ 双语词典和单语词典: 双语词典用对等词解释词义, 有可能不够确切。单语词典以解释为释义手段。例如:

- teacher, 英汉词典解释为教师、教员、老师、先生
单语词典解释为 **a person who teaches**
- government, 政府, 但在下列句子中government不作“政府”:
Because of bad government, the company was in the red.
由于管理不善, 公司出现亏损。
- pay: 英汉词典释义“支付、付款”, 但以下不可用对等词硬译:
 - pay day 发薪日
 - pay phone 公用电话
 - It doesn't pay 不值

17

Equivalence of Words



■ obviously和apparently, 英汉词典中均作明显地、显著地。

以下见Collins Cobuild Essential English Dictionary:

- obviously:

You say *obviously* when you are stating something that you expect people to know already.

You can also use *obviously* to indicate that something is easily seen, noticed, or recognized.

- apparently:

You use *apparently* to indicate that the information you are giving is something that you have heard but are not certain that it is true.

Refer to something that seems to be the case although it may not be.

18

Formal Correspondence 形式对等



■ 用词结构相同, 意思相同:

- Emergency Room 急诊室
- girl friend 女朋友
- Alexander Fleming discovered Penicillin.
亚力山大·福来明发现青霉素。(词类、语法、词序相同)
- They are working against time to produce more oil for the country.
他们正在争分夺秒为国家生产更多的石油。(词序不同)

■ 比喻相同, 意思相同:

- snow-white 雪白
- golden age 黄金时代
- He spends money like water. 他花钱跟流水似的。
- Strike while the iron is hot. 趁热打铁。

19

Formal Correspondence 形式对等



- 不可片面照顾对等而搞错了意思，因为有时形式相同，但意思却不对。
 - compact disc 激光唱片（不是“密纹唱片”）
 - biological parents 亲生父母（不是“生物学父母”）
 - He is above cheating in the exam.
他绝不会考试作弊。（不是“他高于在考试中欺骗”）
 - You can't be too careful.
你应特别小心。（不是“你不能太小心”）
 - 要注意策略。
Be diplomatic.（不能Pay attention to the strategy.）

20

Dynamic Equivalence 灵活对等



- 不局限于词的对等，要着眼于句子甚至段落对等。
- 形式和意义不能兼顾时主要应考虑意义。不受原文束缚。
 - You are wanted on the phone. 您的电话。
 - I have read your articles. I expected to meet an older man. 看过你的文章想不到你这么年轻。
 - He can hardly open his mouth without talking shop. 他一开口总是三句话不离本行。
 - No operation is more fearsome to the layman than brain surgery, the invasion by cold steel of man's citadel of reason and emotion, his very "self". This book, which is entirely factual, describes one exploration into this complex and mysterious world.
对于外行没有比脑手术更令人胆战心惊的了。冰冷的钢刀直插理智和感情中枢（直译城堡），捅进人的“禁区”！本书叙述的完全是真人真事，它记录了人们对这个复杂神秘的世界进行的探索。

21

Equivalence in Terms of Meaning 意义对等



- 有时只求内容与原文一致，并不追求形式一致，不死译。
- Britain could not have advanced her industrialization so rapidly if, just when owners of factories needed it most, an abundant supply of cheap labor had not made itself available.
要不是正好工厂老板们最需要劳动力的时候得到大量廉价劳动力，英国的工业化就不可能发展得这样迅速。
- The heat that warms a body does not change either the weight of the body or its inertia.
热可使物体升温，但不改变物体的重量，也不会改变物体的惯性。

22

Equivalence in Terms of Style 风格对等



- 仅有意义对等还不够，更高的要求是保持原文风格。
- 科技翻译须注意使用正式的书面语体，术语的翻译符合标准和惯例，避免不适当的修辞等。
 - 例如Heat warms a body. 不宜译作：“热可以使物体变得温暖”。

23

Extension of Word's Meaning



- 由于词的多义性和搭配习惯不同，经常不能将单语词典中查到的词义直接用在译文中，而要根据上下文确定。
- Like any precision instrument, the spectrum analyzer requires careful treatment. (转译“维护”)
- The problem may be modeled by a system of linear equations. (线性方程组，不译“方程系统”)
- There are many things that should be taken into account in determining the parameters of the ADC. (things具体化为“因素”)
- The filter design has been improved to answer the challenge of severe interference from the outer space. (“克服来自太空的干扰”)
- Proton has a positive charge, electron a negative charge, but neutron has neither. (注意词的搭配：“带电荷”，不译“有电荷”)

24

Insertion of Words



- The propagation of microwaves will be explained in terms of Maxwell's equations. (微波的传播原理要用Maxwell方程组来解释。为了意思明确增加“原理”二字。)
- Electricity permits indication of measurements at a distance, which is very important in many fields. (measurements译为测量结果，增加“结果”二字。)
- According to Newton's Third Law of Motion action and reaction are equal and opposite. (大小相等，方向相反。)
- Manganese is a hard, brittle, gray-white metal. (锰是一种又硬又脆的灰白色金属。为使语气通顺增加“又”、“又”。)
- The sun warms the earth, which makes it possible for plants to grow. (太阳使地球温暖，从而使植物得以生长。增加“从而”。)
- The units of ampere, ohm, and volt are named respectively after three scientists. (安培、欧姆、伏特这三个单位是分别根据三位科学家的姓氏而命名的。增加“这三个”。)

25

Omission of Words



- Any substance is made up of atoms whether it is a solid, a liquid, or a gas. (不要将不定冠词译出)
- Liquids have no definite shape, yet they have a definite volume. (液体没有一定的形状，但有一定的体积。译文省略they)
- The capacitor is a cube with all sides a half centimeter long. (电容器为立方体，每边长0.5厘米。介词with不译)
- Magnetic poles exert forces on each other such that like poles repel and unlike poles attract. (... 同极相斥，异极相吸。连词such that不译)
- This laser beam covers a very narrow range of frequencies. (该激光束的频率范围很窄。译文省略动词cover)
- By flowing over the tubes, the steam is caused to transmit some of its heat to the liquid, and a rapid drop in temperature occurs. (蒸汽从这些金属管流过，将热量传给冷却液使温度迅速下降。occurs不译)
- The laws in science are frequently stated in words, but more often in the form of equations. (... 更多的是用公式来表达。不译“公式的形式”)
- Semiconductor devices have no filament or heater and therefore require no heating power or warm-up time. (半导体器件没有灯丝，因此不需要加热功率或预热时间。Heater不译出)

26