

英语和汉语的语篇连贯关系

摘要: 英语和汉语在运用各种衔接手段创建语篇的连贯关系上有着较大差异。英语注重“形合”, 倾向于采用显性的衔接手段; 而汉语注重“意合”, 较多地采用隐性的衔接方式。因此, 译者在汉译英时应当注意二者的不同, 进行适当调整, 才能译出流利通顺的文章。

关键词: 连贯; 衔接手段; 汉译英

一、连贯与衔接 Halliday 和 Hasan [1] 以及 Van Dijk [2] 都将连贯看作语篇自身拥有的深层语义特征。语篇内存在着诸多关系, 而当篇章中某些成分的理解需要依赖于上下文时, 就形成了语篇连贯。连贯是文字成为语篇的原因, 它是语篇的基本特征 [3]。从形式上看, 连贯主要通过词汇和语法共同促成, 它们是两种基本的语篇衔接手段。Halliday 和 Hasan 归纳了几种主要的衔接途径: 照应、替代和省略、连接、词汇。翻译中常常有这样的争论: 是采取归化还是异化? 归化要求译文以目的语或译文读者为归宿, 而异化则要求以源语或原文读者为归宿。对于这一问题, 不能一概而论之。汉、英两种语言就形式上看存在较大差异, 为使译文连贯、通顺、流畅, 使译文符合“达”的要求, 产生“等效”, 翻译时应以目的语为归宿, 采取归化原则。这就意味着在翻译时, 译者要考虑到目的语和源语在造就语篇连贯时所使用的不同的衔接手段, 注意选择和调整, 才能译出通畅流利的文字。根据奈达的等效原则 [4], 翻译活动中涉及到的两种语言是否成功互译, 一个标准就是两种语言的接受者对源语和译文的感受是否大致相同。为说明如何实现翻译的等值, Firth 和 Halliday 提出了六个层次上的翻译形式等值, 其中就有“句法等值”, 要求目的语的语法范畴、词序、句型等要代替源语中相应的项目。笔者认为这在同一语系下的两种语言, 如英语和法语之间, 是可能的, 但不适用于汉英这两种表层结构差异较大的语言。在汉英翻译中, 只有首先注意到二者形式上的差异, 如语篇衔接上的差异, 才能达到真正的等值。衔接手段为篇章带来连贯, 但衔接手段本身却可以是显性或隐性的。根据 Reinhart [5] 和 Ehlich [6] 的理论, 如果语篇没有显性的连贯手段, 那么语篇连贯性的解读就在很大程度上取决于读者或听者, 是他们通过语用推理等手段理解出语篇的内在连贯性, 是他们通过自己的心理活动还原和创造出连贯关系。汉英翻译中, 译者首先要发现汉英两种语言实现连贯而采用的不同手段, 考察它们是隐性的还是显性的, 即使是同一种衔接方式, 有何种细微差别。在翻译中, 连贯关系在目的语篇章中的实现应具备此过程: 译者首先要解读并确定源语 (如汉语) 语篇的连贯关系及手段, 然后针对并运用目的语 (如英语) 中习惯使用的衔接手段, 译出通顺流利的文字, 使它和源语文字产生大概一致的效果。

二、衔接手段与汉译英

汉语篇章中的连贯关系大多依赖于隐性的衔接手段。相比之下, 英语却在很大程度上运用显性的衔接手段来创造语篇的连贯。现代汉语源自于宋、元以来的白话文, 其句法以“散”著称 [7]。不过汉语“形散神不散”, 句子结构虽灵活、松散、短小, 句子与句子间的语义关系却仍然明了, 但不是凭借形式或逻辑上的用语, 而是凭借作者或主体的意念、意识流。英语却是讲求“形合”的语言, 其段落篇章的连贯和流畅都依赖于显性的衔接手段。英语注意结构的严谨, 不论是句子还是语词都要求体现清楚的逻辑关系。因此, 在汉译英的过程中要谨记这一区别, 只有充分考虑创造语篇连贯所使用的不同衔接手段, 方能译出流畅自然的英语。以下用实例论述如何处理这一问题。

(一) 照应关系 Halliday 和 Hasan 指出, 当篇章中某些词汇的指称对象或所指必须依赖上下文, 而造成不同的指有相同的所指时, 就形成了照应和连贯 [8]。照应可分为人称照应、指示照应和比较照应。这

三种照应在英语中的使用多于汉语，因此在翻译时应当在合适地方增补出在汉语中被隐去的照应手段。下面几例中斜体的英语单词就是添加出来的部分：

1. 每年农历十二月二十以后，海岛上的居民便开始进入过年倒计时。先搞卫生，掸去一年尘土。接着准备食品，做年糕、炒倭豆、炒番薯片、打米花糖。廿五、廿六起，家家户户开始“谢年”：祀祖先。Every year after the 20th of the lunar 12th month, inhabitants on the island would start their countdown to the Spring Festival. They would sweep their houses clean, flickering every bit of dust off the furniture. After that they begin to prepare various foods: steamed New Year cakes, fried beans, fried sweet potato chips, and baked rice cookies. On the 25th and 26th of the month, households start their “New Year Thanksgiving” rites to pay homage to their ancestors.

2. 如按照传统手术方法，首先需打开患者的胸腔，去掉肋骨后方可将病肺切除，术后会留下达 30 厘米左右的刀疤。据主刀的副主任医师王丰民介绍，在胸腔镜下作肺切除，只需在患者的肋间打拇指大小的两个孔，另在肋间隙切一个约 5 厘米的口子，即可将完整的病肺切除。这项新手术具有创伤小，住院时间短，功能恢复快，费用小等优点。Traditional surgeries usually open up the patient's chest first and then remove concerned ribs to cut off the pestilent part. Such practices would leave a 30 cm long scar on the chest, though. Whereas according to Doctor Wang Fengmin, a deputy archiater in charge of the surgery, thoracoscopic removals of diseased lungs can be successfully done simply by drilling two thumb-sized holes between the patient's ribs and cleaving a 5cm intercostal slit. This new type of surgeries does little injury and allows the patient to get back in shape with in brief period. The patient can leave hospital earlier and thus cut down on his expenses.

(二) 替代和省略 替代和照应类似，同样意味着篇章中某一语言成分的阐释须借助前文[9]。省略则意味着“尽在不言中”，被省去的信息有望在上下文中找到。英语语篇中大多尽量避免赘述，而是使用替代和省略的方式创建连贯。所以在汉译英时，应考虑到英语习惯，在适当的地方将汉语中重复的语词处理成替代和省略，如：

1. 那声声燃放的鞭炮是·辞·旧·迎·新的欢呼。新世纪的新年，就在这欢跃的气氛中，一下子走近了。The exploding firecrackers bid farewell to the passing year and cheered for the coming of a new one. The centennial New Year is just around the corner clothed in the delightful mood.

2. 工业园区土地使用权转让的成本价目前为每亩 16 万元人民币，年内，对国家产业导向，规模大、科技含量高的外商投资项目，按照每 100 万美元用 10 亩土地的比例，给予特殊价格优惠，其中注册资本在 100 万·美·元到 300 万美元的，每亩地价为 8 万元人民币；300 万·美·元到 500 万·美·元的，每亩·地·价为 7 万元人民币；500 万·美·元到 1000 万·美·元的，每亩·地·价为 6 万元人民币；1000 万·美·元以上的每亩·地·价为 5 万元人民币。Currently, the cost of land use transfer in the Zone is charged at the ratio of 160 thousand yuan per Chinese mu, whereas before the end of this year, the price will be lowered down to 1 million US dollars every 10 mu for those large and technology-intensive foreign projects that are run in compliance with the industrial orientation of the country. As regards those companies with a registered capital ranging from 1 million () to 3 million US dollars, the price is 80 thousand yuan per mu, () 70 thousand yuan for those with that from 3 million () to 5 million (), () 60 thousand for those from 5 to 10 million () and () 50 thousand for those over 10 million ()

3. 以往过年都是打发小孩一点钱，现在可·不·这·样了。In the past, they would dismiss the kids with some money as a gift for the lunar New Year, but not nowadays.

4. 外商在开发区的投资越来越·多，进出口贸易也随之·增·加。Foreign investments are on

the rise in the Employment Zone, so are imports and exports¹⁵¹ 去年有 50 个社区获“文明社区”称号,今年又将有 20 个社区获此殊荣。Last year 50 communities were named as “civilized community”; this year, 20 more will be given the title¹

(三) 连接关系

语篇中使用连词可以在上下文之间建立某种语义关系。由于汉语是重意合而不重形式联系的语言,它的篇章中较少使用连接词,其语义关系很多是隐性的;英语则更重视形式上的环环相扣,语句间的逻辑关系多由连接词表达出来。因此在翻译中,应当注意将汉语中的隐性关系转换成英语的显性用语。例如:

- 本人在香港创业二十余年,历尽艰辛,虽在事业上略有成就,但也饱尝人世间的风风雨雨。每次回乡总是得到家乡各级领导的热情接待,心头总有一种温馨的爱,一种到家的感觉。It has been more than 20 years since I started my career in Hong Kong, where I have weathered through various hardships. My modest achievements in business also go along with multitudinous pains and tears. As a result, every time when I return to my hometown, where I am given warm receptions by the local government leaders, my heart will be overflowed with tenderness and affection, for it gives me a feeling of home.
- 忙到除夕夜才松口气。全家团圆,坐下来吃“年夜饭”。All the preparations are not completed until the lunar New Year's Eve, when all the family members sit down around the table to enjoy the “New Year's Eve dinner”.
- 我喜欢看小孩子追着旋转的焰火,心里重温起少年的愉悦。I love gazing upon kids chasing the spinning fireworks as it reminds me of my teenage glees.
- 在生活越来越富足的今天,越来越多的长辈选择“压岁书”作为送给孩子们的过年礼物。连日来市里各大书店门庭若市,少儿类图书的销售量直线上升。Today with more and more people living a better life, seniors in the family would give books to the children as a lunar New Year gift. As a result, in the past few days, people have been beating a path to the big book stores in the city and sales volumes for various children's books have increased by large margins.
- 许多人因此学会了用手势表达简单的日常用语,现在如果有手持纸条的聋哑人前来乘车,问讯处的同志能用哑语回答。Many staff members have thus learned to put simple daily exchanges into gestures. People working at the information desk, for example, are able to use the language to answer inquiries from those deaf-mutes, who still have slips of paper clutched in their hands.
- 为此,本市将继续以集装箱运输为主攻方向,开发穿山、大榭和梅山深水岸线。To accomplish the goal, the city will continue to concentrate its efforts on developing its container shipping and at the same time open up a deepwater shipping route connecting Chuanshan, Daxie and Meishan.

(四) 词汇衔接指通过词的重复、同义、反义、上下义、互补、同现等词汇间的语义关系来实现语篇连贯^[10]。运用这些词可以产生很强的粘合力,形成一张“词汇网”,赋予语篇连贯性。英语语篇不会过分重复使用某一词汇,而是使用同义、近义、上下义词。同义词、近义词以及上下义词和照应手段配合使用,能帮助句子相互衔接,构成连贯,而如果单纯重复,会使语篇显得生硬、不协调^[11]。比较起来,汉语中重复运用某一词汇的情况却很多,翻译时应注意作适当调整。如:

- 老金奔过去一看,原来是一只不到 500 克重的羽毛刚长齐的猫头鹰。他把猫头鹰小心翼翼装进笼子里,然后骑自行车送往离家 7.15 公里的城区林业局。林业局的工作人员把猫头鹰放归大自然。Lao Jin hastened over and found it was a young fledgling owl no more than 500 grams in weight. He picked the bird up and placed it into a cage with much care. Then he cycled the bird all the way to the municipal Forestry Bureau, 7.15 kilometers

off h ishome1T here the staff members set the creatu re f reeinto the embrace of the forest 2. 乡镇工业· 园· 区已经成为我市乡镇· 企· 业“二次创业”的有效载体, 极大地改善了· 企· 业的发展环境。目前已有 3 772 家· 企· 业进驻· 园· 区。 Tow nsh i p industrial zones p rovide s olid veh iclesfor the city’ s enterp rises in running new businessesand great ly i mp rove the set t ing for the devel opmentof such entities1 So far, 3 772 establishm ents havefound home in these quarters1 除了以上词汇外, Halliday 和 Hasan 还提到了英语中的另一种词, 叫 generalword[12], 也称作“准实义词” [13], 其特点是语义上空、泛、抽象, 其所指或含义需借助上下文推断。由于这种词的所指需依赖上下文, 因此它们和指示代词及人称代词一样, 具有所指性, 可以构建篇章的整体语义结构和逻辑框架, 创建语篇连贯。这类词数量多, 使用普遍, 如 p roblem , situation, concern, group, p lan, scheme,p ract ice, move, operat ion, endeavor 等。汉译英时,在适当地方添加 generalword, 有助于译出语义连贯、逻辑严密、条理清楚的文字。如: 3. 新年的漱口水, 洗脸水不可倒落地, 而倒入预先准备好的水盆里, 当天也不扫地, 谓· 之“积财” 。 A ccording to custo m s, a basin is es pecially re2served forw ater f rom tooth bursh ing andw ashup, forsuch w ater is not all ow ed to be s p lashed on theground1Nor is the f loor to be cleaned on theday1These taboos are intended for “fortune2saving” 1 4. 五年后, 宁波港将建成国际深水枢纽港。据介绍,· 将· 宁· 波· 港· 建· 成· 国· 际· 深· 水· 枢· 纽· 港· 是宁波市“新世纪工程”的第一项任务。 In 5 years, N ingbo port is to be turned into ddeep2 w ater harbor thoroughfare for internat i onal pur2poses al ong Ch ina’ s coast1Informed peop le say th iseng ag em ent has become the top p ri ority of N ingbo’ sN ew Century P roject

综上, 语篇的衔接手段对于翻译有着特殊的重要性。译者在翻译时必须考虑两种语言在构建语篇连贯上的差异, 尽量摆脱源语在结构和用语上的限制。译者如果囿于源语的束缚, 就会使译出的文字带上源语的语法和语义结构, 使读者产生误差, 致使语句不畅、意义令人费解。源语对译者能进行干扰, 是因为其汉语水平一般高于英语水平, 使汉语的表层结构先入为主而给读者带来束缚。在汉译英的过程中, 惟有充分了解和熟悉目的语的形式特征,方能摆脱这一拘囿, 译出好的文字。

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