

Translation

Basics: English-Chinese

*Shall I compare thee
to a summer's day?*



我是否能將你
喻為夏日？

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英中翻譯基礎

Introduction to Chinese-English 2 Way Translation

這是個中英翻譯的課程，課程重點著重在實做部分，同學要記得確實練習老師給的翻譯題，老師也會針對題目細部講解，逐步解釋中文與英文本質上的差異，讓同學有初步的概念。

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Unit 1 - 中英的差異

1. Pronunciation and Writing System

Chinese – monosyllabic: one word/character/one syllable; has four tones

English – mono-/polysyllabic: one word/several syllables, has no tones

Relevance to translation

- Difficulty: When sounds become part of the central meaning, the text becomes virtually untranslatable.
- Transliteration
- Rhyme and rhythm

2. Words

Chinese: pictographs that contain sound, form, and meaning

English: alphabetic language made of phonemes

Relevance to translation

- Objective reality
- Concept and cultural connotations
- Words with multiple meanings

3. Syntax

Chinese – parataxis, syntax is loose and flexible, relies individual words to convey meaning

English – hypotaxis, relies on strict rules of grammar and syntax to convey meaning

Relevance to translation

- when translating, the features of one language are transferred into the other; therefore, there comes English-sounding Chinese and Chinglish
- word order
- link word (e.g. and, until)
- passive voice
- article, infinitive, pronoun, tense, etc.

4. Discourse Structure

Chinese – more circular, a topic sentence may appear in the middle or at the end of a paragraph

English – more linear, logical system, uses cohesive rules and linkage

Relevance to translation

- Keeping the source text or restructuring the original in thinking of the cognitive process of the original

Unit 2 - 轉換詞性、 補充敘述和省略

• Conversion-Nouns into Verbs (and vice versa)

中文有一個特點是，一個句子裡可有多個動詞並列使用，而英文句子通常只有一個主要的動詞。

英文中有不少由動詞衍生的名詞或具有動作意義的名詞。英文翻進中文時，可把名詞轉換成動詞。

相反的，中文進英文的時候，就可以考慮把動詞名詞化。

• Conversion-Nouns into Verbs

英文中含有動作意味的名詞

記錄我們的生活和情感是非常重要的。

It is important to record our lives and feelings.

A record of our lives and feelings is very important.

• Conversion-Other parts of speech

Preposition (含有動作意味的介係詞：across, past, toward, etc.)

"Coming!" Away she skimmed over the lawn, up the path, up the steps, across the veranda, and into the

porch.

「來啦！」她轉身蹦蹦跳跳的跑走了，越過草地，跑上小徑，奔上台階，穿過陽台，最後進了門廊。

• Adjective and Adverb

The country was in a financially difficult situation.

當時國家的財政困難。

• Amplification

Addition in the target text of words that did not appear in the source text but without affecting the original meaning.

There are two categories:

Grammatical amplification

Content amplification

• Grammatical Amplification

This strategy is used mainly to confirm to basic grammatical English usage, and usually takes the form of functional words, such as prepositions and conjunctions.

他沒有看到總統講話的文本，不願多做評論。

He declined to amplify on the President's statement, since he had not read the text.

• Content Amplification

Words are added for stylistic or rhetorical purpose, and to produce a fluent and idiomatic translation.

讀懂原文之後，根據上下文的需要來增加譯文的字、詞，使起承轉合更順暢。

英語原文複數，在翻譯成中文時，除了用「們」來表示，可以增加重疊詞、數詞或其他詞彙來表達。

英語時態靠動詞變化，翻譯成中文時，也需要增加詞彙來表達。

In the evening, after the banquets, the concerts and the table tennis exhibition, he would work on the drafting of the final communiqué.

在宴會、音樂會、乒乓球表演後，他晚上還得起草最後公報。

晚上在參加宴會、出席音樂會、觀看乒乓球表演之後，他還得起草最後公報。

Newsmen went flying off to Mexico.

記者紛紛飛到墨西哥去了。

• Omission

- Translators need to realize that some words in one language may be unnecessary, or even

completely undesirable, in another language.

- From English to Chinese, the grammatical function words are sometimes omitted, in particular, pronouns, conjunctions, articles, and prepositions.

- From Chinese to English, some rhetorical phrases can be omitted.

But it's the way I am, and try as I might, I haven't been able to change it.

但我就這個脾氣，雖然幾經努力，卻未能改過來。

The girl standing at the window is his sister.

站在窗邊的（那個）女孩子是他妹妹。

清淡的年菜一樣令人垂涎欲滴。

The New Year's Eve meal doesn't have to be rich to be delicious/mouth-watering.

路邊小吃，躍上正席。

From stall to hall.

Unit 3 - 改變觀點、 分割、組合、重組

• Changing the Perspective

- Sometimes strictly following the source text can tie the translator up in knots.
- Approach: shift in perspectives (i.e. saying the same thing from another angle)

比較顯而易見的是，把正面的句子用反面表達，或者把反面的句子，用正面表達。

[正→反] 例句

He knew he was mortally ill.

(病的很重)(他知道自己得的是不治之症。)

[反→正] 例句：

Don't lose time in posting this letter.

(趕快把這封信寄出去。)

[其他例句]

工作沒有經驗，出點差錯，在所難免。

(Mistakes are usually unavoidable when you're new to your work.)

• Division and Combination

- A longer sentence is usually more difficult to translate than a shorter one, because there will be more modifiers of the subject, verb, and object.
- Strategy: carefully analyze to tease out the meaning,
- Note that a language unit can be divided into many parts and restructured.
- Units of language are classified as follows:
Sentence (句子)、Clause (分句)、Phrase (短語)
Word (字 / 詞)、Morpheme (詞素) (e.g. worker = work+er)
- In division, upgrading a smaller unit to a larger one occurs very frequently.
- In combination, translators take several language units and combine them into a larger unit.

Examples of dividing a sentence

Einstein's theory of relativity is too difficult for the average person to understand.

愛因斯坦的相對論很難，一般人無法理解。

Examples of Combining Sentences

舊曆新年快到了，這是一年中的第一件大事。

The traditional New Year Holiday, the first big event of the year, is fast approaching.

• Repositioning Components

- There is really no hard-and-fast rule; the principal criteria are fluidity and ease of style.
- Repositioning can be major or minor and can include individual words, phrases, or even entire clauses.

Examples of Repositioning Components

我們都知道，只有各國都同意遵守共同的規則，才可能有持久的和平與自由。

We all know that there can be lasting peace and freedom only if states agree to follow common rules.

Unit 3
Practice

Unit 4 - 關係子句、 副詞子句、與被動

• Relative Clauses

English is “right branching,” while Chinese is “left branching.”

The book he likes so much is too expensive.
他很喜歡的那本書太貴。

Chinese→English

When you see 「... 的」 in the Chinese source text, you have more translation choices than using relative clauses:

有特殊專長的學生，日後入學的機會將會大大增大。

There are growing admission opportunities for children with special talents. ← phrase

English→Chinese

翻譯成「... 的」的時候句子會變得很複雜，這時候記得要順一下譯文。

Many people have read the book I bought you a few

years ago in San Francisco.

許多人都讀過我幾年前在舊金山為你買的那本書。
(幾年前我在舊金山為你買的那本書，很多人都讀過。)

還有的時候，可能要把句子讀懂後，增添一辭彙，來幫助說明子句之間的關係。

He insisted on building another house, which he had no use for.

他堅持要再造一幢房子，儘管他並無此需要。

• Adverbial Clauses

Both English and Chinese use connecting words to express the relationship between clauses.

because 因為

if 如果

when 當

though 雖然

- In your translation, you can just follow the source text forms and the connectors.

假如沒有錢，就什麼都不能做。

If we have no money, we can do nothing.

- The paratactic feature of Chinese often makes the markers (the connecting words) invisible.

I shall go unless it rains.

我應該會去，除非下雨了。

沒下雨，我應該會去。

- When translating from Chinese into English, remember to add the connector.

下雨天，公車總是很擠。

When it rains, the buses are always crowded.

• Passive Voice

When translating from Chinese to English, in the cases when there is no obvious passive marker, or much less any “doer” of the action, the implied meaning is still passive.

這本書年底將完成。

This book will be completed by the end of the year.

英文的被動式不一定是用 be+ V-ed 來表達

Heart murmurs are frequently heard in these patients.

這些病人的心臟，常出現雜音。

Each candidate can make himself heard.

每位候選人都能使自己被聽到。→每位候選人都能讓選民聽到自己的政見。

- Replace 被 with 給 / 遭 / 挨 / 使, etc.

有人說... instead of using “Some people say...,”
it can be translated as “it is said...”

Unit 4
Practice

Unit 5 - 象徵、 俚語、成語、長句

• Metaphors

- Metaphors in literary writing←visible

經理是我們的舵手。

The manager is our helmsman.

- Metaphors in non-literary writing←not-so-visible

他很快就掌握了英文語法。(掌握在手中)

He quickly mastered English grammar.

**1. If the source of the metaphor is recognizable,
literal rendering should be used.**

(i.e. keep the original metaphors)

又要顧事業，又要顧家庭，現代女性蠟燭兩頭燒。

Modern women have careers and families and are

trying to burn the candle at both ends.

2. Use non-metaphorical translation.

他們兩人曾經走過婚姻中的低潮與風雨。

They have been through some difficult times in their marriage.

3. Adopt both strategies.

海水是這個海島的護城牆，也是通往世界的們。
The ocean is both the island's protection, and its link to the world.

4. Use a metaphor to replace a non-metaphor.

My principle is "better to die in glory than live in dishonor."

我的原則是「寧為玉碎，不為瓦全」。

- Pay attention to readability, idiomatic quality and fluency of the final translation.
- Pay attention to the type of text involved: literary writing vs. non-literary texts.

• Idioms & Four-Character Expressions

- When translating into English,
 - * do not worry about the word-count
 - * the translator must dig beneath the surface to truly understand the meaning and connotations of the expression.
- In general, literal translation should be avoided, but in certain specific situations (e.g. titles) such translation can be considered.

老馬識途：an experienced guide

束之高閣、乏人問津：shelved and forgotten

外甥打燈籠 -- 照舊：Things will be back to what they were before.

四字成語很好用，但要小心，成語有很濃厚的文化意涵，要注意是否適合文章的上下文

• Long Sentences

弄清楚原文的句法結構！！

找出整個句子的中心內容 (kernel sentence) 及各層面意思→然後分析幾層意思之間的相互邏輯關係

(因果、時間順序)

↓
按照漢語特點和表達方式，正確的翻譯出原文的意思。

** 不拘泥於原文的形式 **

順序法

英文長句內的動作按發生先後寫出來，中文翻譯的時候，直接按照原文順序譯出。

On August 1, the gunboat began her mission, which

was in the eyes of the defenders, a provocative act and seemed to be part of the overall assault which had begun on July 31.

[分析：三層意思]

1. 八月一日砲艇開始執行任務
2. 在防禦者看來這是一次挑釁行動
3. 這個任務似乎是七月三十一日開始的全面攻擊的一部分。

逆序法

有些英文長句的表達次序與中文表達習慣不同，甚至會完全相反，這時就必須從原文後面譯起。

And I take heart from the fact that the enemy, which boasts that it can occupy the strategic point in a couple of hours, has not yet been able to take even the outlying regions, because of the stiff resistance that gets in the way.

我因為這項事實而信心大增 / 敵人還無法佔領外圍區域，由於頑強的抵抗阻擋了他們 / 敵人吹噓自己能在數小時內佔領戰略要地。
敵人吹噓能在幾個小時佔領戰略要地，但由於我們頑強抵抗，現在連外圍地帶都沒能佔領，這使我大為振奮。

分譯法

主句跟從句或修飾語之間的關係不很密切，翻譯時可以把長句裡面的從句或短語，轉化為獨立的句子，分開來敘述。

為使語意連貫，有時候還可以增添適當的詞句。

When Smith was drunk, he used to beat his wife and daughter; and the next morning, with a headache he would rail at the world of its neglect of his genius, and abuse, with a good deal of cleverness, and sometimes with perfect reason, the fools, his brother painters.

史密斯喝醉之後常常打老婆和女兒 / 隔天帶著頭痛，他抱怨世人不賞識他的天才 / 痛罵一些白癡，也就是同行的畫家 / 他罵人的技巧很高明，有時候也很有道理。

史密斯喝醉之後常常打老婆和女兒；隔天帶著頭痛發牢騷，抱怨世人不賞識他的才華，痛罵同行的畫家都是白癡。他罵人的技巧很高明，有時候也很有道理。

Unit 6 - 克服中翻英 不小心用到的 口語習慣 (上)

(1) Make your intended meaning more visually accessible

- Place the most important subject and/or clause at the beginning of the sentence so as to make the primary idea or emphasis more accessible.
- The primary emphasis or key idea of a sentence is often lost or hidden when directly translating from Chinese.
- So that the readers can quickly find what they want...
- Unless the intention is to connect with the previous sentence.

把最重要的主題、子句等放在句首，以求突顯你主要的意思或重點，而且能容易地為讀者所領會。

Example

因為下雨了，所以我沒去。

I didn't go because it rained. / Because it rained, I didn't go. / It rained so I didn't go.

(2) Avoid overemphasis of clauses involving time

- Chinese verb form does not have a well defined past, present or future tense. In writing or in speaking the tense of the Chinese verb is unclear. Therefore when Chinese is used, prepositional or other phrases (as well as conjunction adverbs) which indicate time, are placed at the beginning of a sentence so as to inform the speaker or the reader of the appropriate tense.
- When translating into English, Chinese writers occasionally forget that English has a well-defined past/present/future verb tense.
- Consequently, the unconscious tendency is often redundant.

Example

目前，公司正準備要擴大生產。

Now, the company is planning to expand production.
The company is planning to expand product.

(3) Avoid overemphasis of clauses involving

Fu Jen SLC

comparison

- Chinese writers often place prepositional phrases (介系詞片語) and other phrases that indicate comparison in front of the main idea. That which the main idea is being compared to (not the idea itself) is often placed at the beginning of the sentence.
- In doing so, the main idea is pushed toward the end of sentence.

Example

跟狗比起來，貓好多了。
Compared to dogs, cats are nice.
Cats are nicer than dogs.

(4) Avoid overemphasis of "domains"

- Domains refer to stating the purpose, condition, location or reason.
- Chinese writers often preface the main idea by first stating the purpose, condition, location or reason. The logic behind this colloquial habit is that by introducing or directly stating the main idea would be too direct and potentially offensive.

- However, such an introduction before every main idea (or prefacing the fact) may leave the reader with the impression that the author is indirect, as this tendency pushes the main idea toward the end of sentence.

英美人士反倒習慣把「結果」置於句首藉以凸顯，如此一來，可使句子的表達變得更直接，同時，也讓讀者更容易看到句子的主題和重點。

In order to, for the sake of – purpose

If, when – condition

In, At, From – location

Due to, because, since – reason

Example

在都市中，停車真是一大考驗。
為了慶祝他們三十五周年結婚紀念，我們全家舉辦了一次聚餐。
由於我們的球打的比另一隊好，所以我們常常贏球。

Unit 7 - 克服中翻英

不小心用到的 口語習慣 (下)

(5) Use transitional phrases to connect 2 sentences or phrases.

Common sentence linkers include the following:

- Under those circumstances,
- For such a reason,
- In such a case,
- In light of above developments,
- As mentioned earlier,
- If this above condition is satisfied,
- According to those results,
- Above results suggest that...
- This finding (event, fact, phenomenon, occurrence) reveals that...

適度地使用表示連接性的介系詞 (或副詞) 片語對整個文章的順暢應有很大的幫助，如此可減少「片斷破碎」的寫作型式。

- A transitional effect is desired when attempting to make a connection with the previous sentence or paragraph.

(6) Provide variety in verb form and selection

- 藉著以下的方法達到置換動詞的目標
- (a) 在不定動詞和動名詞間取得平衡，避免過度使用不定動詞
 - (b) 使用動詞的名詞形式
 - (c) 找出動詞的同義字，利用同義字來替換，避免在同一篇文章中一直使用同一個動詞

Example

Companies see big results in cutting air pollution.
Companies witness significant progress in reducing/
alleviating air pollution//air pollution alleviation.

(7) Avoid excessively long sentence

- 以下三個方法可使繁長句子變得簡單易懂：
- (a) 將一句分為二句：第一子句 (目的、結果) + 第二子句 (位置、條件) 表示等特定的範圍
 - (b) 在句子中間使用分號以區分句子中的二個重點意思使其更清楚
 - (c) 儘量在一個句子中只表達一個意思

- When translating into English, many Chinese writers are often afraid of separating a sentence between the main and supporting clauses because it is thought that by dividing the main idea into two sentences, the reader may not see the connection in the formation of a complete idea.

(8) 1st person vs. 3rd person

- First Person: personal, subjective opinion, losing objectivity and main ideas
- Third Person: objective, removing a feeling of subjectivity or personal bias
- Emphasis of a personal opinion such as We believe, We can infer, We conclude, We recommend, and We postulate, however, can be used.

Example

We must emphasize the development and introduction of technologies that are both environmentally friendly and able to satisfy the needs of humankind.

Developing and introducing technologies that are both environmentally friendly and able to satisfy the needs of humankind must be emphasized.

Unit 7
Practice

Unit 8 - 如何更清楚 表達語意

(1) Subject and verb agreement

Subject and verb disagreement not only creates confusion over how many people, places or objects are involved, but also gives the sentence a faulty logic.

Examples

Physics make (makes) most first year students nervous.

Either the company or the stockholders be (are) responsible for the financial loss.

The number of participants in the study have (has) increased.

My companion and friend be (is) my wife.

(2) Pronouns are clear in meaning

Readers become confused when the sentences contain pronouns that do not have a clear antecedent.

That is, what the pronoun is referring to.

Example

- (a) The instructor informed the student that she must leave the classroom early.
 - (b) The instructor informed the student, "You must leave the classroom early."
-
- (a) The procedure lasts several minutes, which complicates the overall manufacturing process.
 - (b) The procedure lasts several minutes, thereby complicating the overall manufacturing process.
 - (c) The procedure lasting several minutes complicates the overall manufacturing process.
 - (d) The fact that the procedure lasts several minutes complicates the overall manufacturing process.
 - (e) The procedure lasts several minutes; this time period complicates the overall manufacturing process.

(3) Parallel in structure

Parallelism in writing means that all parts of sentence must have a similar construction. It clarifies the meaning of a sentence and also enhances the rhythm.

Example

- (a) The proposed project is promising, creative, and has innovative ideas.
- (b) The proposed project is promising, creative, and innovative.

(4) Eliminate modifier problems

The modifying clause or phrase should be next to the word it modifies.

Example

- (a) To effectively implement the policy, concrete measures must be adopted by the board of directors.
- (b) To effectively implement the policy, the board of directors must adopt concrete measures.
- (c) The board of directors must adopt concrete measures to effectively implement the policy.

參加考試的時候要儘量答案寫的完整。

When taking an examination, the questions should be answered as thoroughly as possible.

When taking an examination, a student should answer

(5) Double check for faulty comparisons and omissions

Sentences that contain comparisons that are illogical and incomplete creates further ambiguity in technical writing. Editors must also recognize words that have been carelessly omitted.

Example

- (a) The chemistry department cooperates with local industry more than their department (does).
- (b) The research department's productivity is higher than (that of) the administrative division.

(6) Avoid unnecessary shifts in a sentence

Example

Communicators must have share a common language so that we (they) can easily understand each other.

Unit 9 - 如何更簡潔 表達語意

(1) Active voice or passive voice?

- Sentence length
- Direct vs. indirect voice

Example

- (a) Objective assessment of the workplace is required by the supervisor.
- (b) The supervisor must objectively assess the workplace.

- Switching from passive voice to active voice often makes a sentence more direct, concise and persuasive. You can use direct voice to make your texts more immediate and consice. However, passive voice is preferred when the doer of the action is unknown or unimportant / or less important than the action itself.

(2) Using verbs or nouns?

Use strong verbs, not weak verbs and nouns

Example

- (a) The committee must make a consideration of the proposal.
- (b) The committee must consider the proposal.

(3) Sentences begin with It and There

- Use It to refer to a specific noun in the previous sentence.
- Omit It is when they do not add to the sentence's meaning.

Example

- (a) There can be little doubt that raising cats is easier than raising dogs.
- (b) Raising cats undoubtedly is easier than raising dogs.

It is well known that / It may be said that / It is a fact that / It is evident that

(4) Delete redundant words

The web browser in all cases gives consideration to the user's needs in a situation in which he or she is away from office.

The web browser always considers the user's needs when he or she is away from the office.

Examples

Cooperate together = cooperate

First priority = priority

Future plans = plans

Very unique = unique

Unit 10 - 數字的表示方法

Multiples(倍數)

• N times larger than

比... 大 N-1 倍 (按原文減一倍)
是... 的 N 倍 (照原本的倍數)
N 倍於...(照原文的倍數)

Example

This land is three times larger than that one.
這塊地比那塊地大 2 倍。
這塊地是那塊地的三倍。
這塊地三倍大於那塊地。

• N times as high as

高度是 (為)... 的 N 倍 (照原文倍數)
高度 N 倍於...
比... 高 N-1 倍

Example

The output is double as much as that of 1990.
產量是 1990 年的兩倍。
產量比 1990 年多一倍。

• N times the ... of

(體積) 為... 的 N 倍 (照原文倍數)
N 倍於... 的 (體積) (照原文倍數)
(體積) 比... 大 N-1 倍 (照原文減 1 倍)

Example

The earth is 49 times the size of the moon.
地球體積為月球體積的 49 倍。

地球體積 49 倍於月球體積。
地球體積比月球體積大 48 倍。

• Increase N times (as against)

比... 增加了 (N-1) 倍 (按原文減 1 倍)
是... 的 N 倍 (照原文倍數)
在... 的基礎上增加到原數的 N 倍 (照原文倍數)

Example

The salary increases 3.5 times as against last year.
薪資比去年增加了 2.5 倍。
薪資是去年的 3.5 倍。
薪資在去年的基礎上增加到 3.5 倍。(China)

• Double...

翻 (了) 一番 (China)
比原數增長了一倍

Example

Double the income.

收入翻了一番。

收入比原本多一倍。

Decrement: amount lost

A is twice less than B.

A 比 B 小兩倍。(?!)

A 是 B 的 $\frac{2}{3}$ 。(?!)

A 比 B 小 $\frac{2}{3}$ 。

Unit 10
Practice



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