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概要

汉语主语与话题英译技巧

主语是个句法概念,话题是个篇章概念。在句法层面上,英语主语往往比较明确,但汉语主语或隐或显,似乎难以厘清。在篇章层面上,汉英两种语言具有相同的建构手段,但也存在一定的差异。研究发现,话题链是联结主语与话题的一种通达机制,也即同一话题下数个句子衔接与连贯的机制,是汉语主语与话题英译的核心所在。本章聚焦汉英主语的结构形式特征和话题链的建构机制,并在此基础上探讨汉语主语与话题的各类英译技巧。

英语主语

Quirk *et al* (1985)认为,除了谓语动词之外主语是英语句子中最为重要的句法成分,具有特定的句法和语义特征,对整个句子具有全面统摄功能。

英语中,无论主语是在独立单句还是在篇章语境中,我们都可以清晰地辨认出。 例如:

- (1) *Both Nancy and David* are familiar with my parents.
- (2) *His success* often lay in the questions he hurled, not the answers he received.
- (3) I was standing in the sun on the hot steel deck of a fishing ship capable of processing a fifty-ton catch on a good day. But it wasn't a good day. We were anchored in what used to be the most productive fishing site in all of central Asia, but as I looked out over the bow, the prospects of a good catch looked bleak. (Al Gore, Ships in the Desert)

除祈使句外,主语是英语句子中不可或缺的成分。明显有别于汉语主语的英语形式主语(expletive subject)特别能说明主语在英语句子中的不可或缺性(刘宓庆,1991)。例如:

- (4) *It* does not matter to me which side may win the match.
- (5) *It* is wrong to waste time.

(6) *It* is a pity that you missed the exciting football match.

二 汉语主语

汉语主语或隐或显,是个难以厘清的句法概念。自 1898 年马建忠借鉴拉丁语 法规则撰写了汉语语法第一部系统性著作《马氏文通》以来,多数中国语法学家 受其影响颇深,都或多或少会借鉴印欧语语法体系来设计汉语语法,其中就包括 汉语主语的使用规则。因此,汉语主语这个句法概念极有可能是个舶来品。

关于如何判定汉语主语的论述和争议颇多。根据曹逢甫(1995)的研究, 1955年至1956年期间有30多位语法学家在《中国语文》杂志上就这一问题展开过激烈的讨论,然而未能取得一致意见。下列句子是王力(1956)在《主语的定义及其在汉语中的应用》一文里举的实例:

- (7) 我懂这个意思。
- (8) 他肚子饿了。
- (9) 北京城里有个故宫。
- (10) 在北京城里有个故宫。(无主语)

曹逢甫(1995)认为,例(7)的主语为"我"容易理解,但如果说例(8)中的"他"是句子的主语就有些牵强了,"他"应该是话题,"肚子"才是句子的主语,因为"肚子"与谓语动词"饿"才是直接关系,因此"他"不是句子的主语,是话题。关于"肚子"与"他"的定位在下列语篇中可见一斑:

(11)他肚子饿, (他)又找不到东西吃, 所以(他)躺在床上睡觉。

此外,王力认为例(9)的主语是"北京城里",例(10)中的"在北京城里"是个状语,因此例(10)应被判定为无主句。但曹逢甫(1995)认为说汉语的人会觉得例(10)与例(11)在语义上是相同的。

汉语语法学家都认同汉语主语在语篇中常常可以隐藏。例如:

- (12)臣本布衣, Φ^1 躬耕于南阳, Φ 苟全性命于乱世, Φ 不求闻达于诸侯。(诸 葛亮《出师表》)
- (13)两兄弟既年已长大,必需在各种生活上来训练他们,作父亲的就轮流派遣两个小孩子各处旅行。Φ向下行船时,Φ多随了自己的船只充伙计,Φ甘苦与人相共。Φ荡桨时选最重的一把,Φ背纤时拉头纤二纤,Φ吃的是干鱼,辣子,臭酸菜,Φ睡的是硬邦邦的舱板。Φ向上行从旱路走去,则Φ跟了川东客货,Φ过

 $^{^1}$ 本书用 Φ 表示某一句法结构的"蛰伏"或"隐身",代替传统语法术语"省略"。

秀山、龙潭、酉阳作生意,不论寒暑雨雪, Φ 必穿了草鞋按站赶路。且 Φ 佩了短刀, Φ 遇不得已必需动手, Φ 便霍的把刀抽出, Φ 站到空阔处去, Φ 等候对面的一个, Φ 接着就同这个人用肉搏来解决。(沈从文《边城》)

例(12)中有4个句子,除第一句"臣本布衣"有主语"臣"之外,其余三句都隐藏了主语"臣"。例(13)中,从"向下行船时"到"接着就同这个人用肉搏来解决"的17个句子均隐藏了主语"两兄弟"或"两个小孩子"。由此可见,在单句中往往无法厘清汉语主语,但在篇章语境中却可以清晰地辨认出句子主语和篇章话题。



汉英主语的对比

英语主语具有名词性,名词、名词词组(包括具有名词功能的名词性从句等)、代词等均可以充当英语句子的主语,而其他词语如副词、介词、动词、形容词则不可以充当;其在陈述句里处于主位,在存现句中位于存现动词之后。英语句子的主语是谓语讨论、描写或叙述的对象,谓语动词必须在人称和数上与主语保持一致,因此主语对英语句子具有全面统摄功能,具有非常重要的作用。另一方面,英语句子的主语往往也是话题,尤指说话人已知的信息²(Quirk et al, 1985)。

大量研究表明,要透彻理解汉语主语这一句法概念并非易事。实际上,很多语法学家常常会把主语和话题混淆。由此可见,讨论句子主语与讨论篇章话题必须同时进行。根据曹逢甫(1995)的研究,只有在篇章语境中我们才能对汉语主语的本质特征获得全景式认知。

汉英主语的相同之处可以概括为: ①均位于句子的起始位置; ②句子主语往往表达或承载已知信息; ③句子一旦融入语篇中时, 句子主语在不改变形态结构的情况下可以直接转换成篇章的话题, 汉语和英语皆是如此。

总结起来,汉英主语的不同之处主要有:①英语主语必须由名词性词语或结构来充当。需注意的是,处于句子主位的可以是一个本身并没有什么所指但在形式上不可或缺的代词 it,也即形式主语,这种情况相当普遍。此外,英语句子中的主语决定着谓语动词的数,实际上也就决定了谓语动词的结构形态。因此,英语主语对整个句子具有全面统摄功能。②汉语主语可以由各类词语(如名词、动词、副词、形容词等)来充当,其结构形式多种多样。例如:

² Quirk 等 (1985: 726-728) 认为, "The subject is typically the theme (or topic) of the clause. And it typically refers to information that is regarded by the speaker as given."。

- (14) 计算机很有用。(名词性词语)
- (15) 计算是第一步。(动词性词语)
- (16)冷静才能计算得准确。(形容词性词语)
- (17)干得好的多得奖。(助词性结构)
- (18) 这么快就盖好了一栋房子。(副词性结构)
- (19) Φ 真是太荒唐了。(主语隐身)
- (20) Φ是我不好。(主语隐身)

除前述的不同之处之外,汉英主语还有另一重大差别:在汉语篇章语境下,同一主语在同一段落的其他多个句子中普遍存在蛰伏或隐身现象(即零形主语),主语自然转换为篇章话题;而英语句子中的主语基本不存在蛰伏或隐身现象,必须以原形、变形(代词或同义词)或零形形式回指同一话题下所建构的篇章中第一个句子的主语。例如:

- (21)臣本布衣, Φ 躬耕于南阳, Φ 苟全性命于乱世, Φ 不求闻达于诸侯。(诸 葛亮《出师表》)
- (22) Born in an ordinary family, I engaged myself in farming at Nanyang. Having merely managed to survive in times of turbulence, I nearly had the remotest idea of seeking both fame and position from the Administration.

四

汉英主语与话题的通达机制

尽管主语属于句法层次的概念,话题属于篇章层次的概念,但这两个层次之间却可以实现通达,这也是翻译过程中需要注意的问题。

Li & Thompson (1976) 指出话题具有下列特征: ①话题总是有定的; ②话题未必与句中的动词有选择关系; ③话题的功能可概括为"注意中心"; ④话题并非由动词决定, 话题与动词之间并无一致关系; ⑤话题总是居首位; ⑥话题在反身、被动、同等名词隐藏、系列动词与祈使等构造过程中不起作用。曹逢甫(1995)认为 Li & Thompson 遗漏了话题的一个重要特征: 话题往往可以将其语义范围扩展到数个句子形成一个话题链(topic chain), 而话题总是占据话题链的首位。

从信息结构的视角来看,话题总是指有定的信息,居话题链的首位。例如:

- (23)他肚子饿, Φ又找不到东西吃, 所以Φ躺在床上睡觉。
- (24) 这个英文句子真难,我不懂 Φ ,他也不懂 Φ 。
- (25) Thomas never had an education himself. Don't ask him why.
- 例(23)中,"他"是整个段落的话题,并同时映射到"又找不到东西吃"

与"所以躺在床上睡觉"这两个句子上。"肚子"是"他肚子饿"这个句子的主语,话题"他"同时是"又找不到东西吃"与"所以躺在床上睡觉"两个句子的主语。可以说,"他"既是段落话题又是其他两个句子的主语。例(24)中的"这个英文句子"是整个段落的话题,同时又映射到"我不懂"与"他也不懂"这两个句子上。当然,"这个英文句子"同时也是"这个英文句子真难"这个句子的主语,不过却不是"我不懂"与"他也不懂"两个句子的主语,而是它们的宾语。因此,话题与宾语之间也可以实现通达。例(25)中,Thomas 是整个段落的话题,在第一句中话题与主语完全重合,但在第二句中话题却与代词 him 合二为一,实现了话题与宾语之间的通达。

从例(23)到例(25)可以看出,在段落中,话题有时会与主语实现通达,但有时又会与宾语实现通达。当然,主语与话题实现通达,合二为一,并居于段落起始位置的可能性比较大。由此可见,建构话题的必要条件是一句以上的段落,而不是独立的单句。据此,位于一个独立单句首位的成分可能是句子主语,绝不是话题;如果是话题,一定涉及一个语篇。

一个话题链由一个以上的句子组成,各句子在同一话题的统摄下,实现前后 衔接、语意连贯。话题往往以原形、变形或零形形式映射到各句子的主语或宾语 位置上,与主语或宾语实现通达,共同体现为句子的主语或宾语。

映射到第一个句子主语位置上的话题往往采用全称名词或代词形式;从第二句开始,英语话题往往以变形(以代词为主)形式映射,而汉语话题更多地是以零形形式(偶尔使用变形)映射到各句子中。例如:

- (26) *Francesca* heard the out-of-tune pickup go by. *She* lay there in bed, having slept naked for the first time as far back as she could remember. *She* could imagine Kincaid, hair blowing in the wind curling through the truck window, one hand on the wheel, the other holding a Camel. (Robert James Waller, *The Bridges of Madison County*)
- (27) 忠志之士忘身于外者, Φ 盖追先帝之殊遇, Φ 欲报之于陛下也。(诸 葛亮《出师表》)
- 例(26)是一个完整的段落,其话题是 Francesca,这个话题以原形形式映射到第一句中,再以变形(即代词)形式映射到第二、三句中。例(27)也是一个完整的段落,其话题是"忠志之士",均以零形形式映射到后面的句子中。

需特别注意的是,上述两个段落中的话题与各句子的主语实现了完全重合,使得话题与主语在形式上难以区分。与其说例(27)的第二、三、四句中的主语与话题合二为一,不如说在话题的统摄下,主语在话题链上实现蛰伏或隐身。没有话题的统摄,这些句子根本无法让主语蛰伏或隐身。

五 汉语主语的分类

根据刘宓庆(1991)的研究,汉语主语可分为下列几种类型:

(一)施事主语

(28) 我通常看电视不超过一小时。

译文: I usually watch TV for no more than one hour at one sitting.

(二)受事主语

(29)作为一个中国人,经书不可不读。(梁实秋《时间即生命》)

译文: The reading of *Chinese classics* is a must for all Chinese.

(三)受事主语+施事主语

(30)这件小事我时常记起。

译文: I often keep this incident in mind.

(四)施事主语+受事主语

(31)这帮年轻人麻将天天打,好多的时间都糊里糊涂地混过去了。

译文: *These young guys* were playing *mahjong* all day long, much of their time being frittered away aimlessly.

(五)时间主语

(32)6月5日是一年一度的世界环境日。

译文: We observe the World Environment Day every year on June 5.

(六) 地点主语

(33)然而居室里突然听到了蟋蟀的叫声,我和老伴都感惊喜,高楼里哪来的蟋蟀? (吴冠中《蟋蟀》)

译文: One day, however, my wife and I were pleasantly surprised by the sudden chirping of a cricket *in our apartment*. How did it get into this tall building?

(七)与事主语

(34)绿色发展对环境保护来说既是压力又是机遇。

译文: *To seek for green development*, we will meet with both pressure and opportunity for environmental protection.

(八)与事主语+施事主语

(35)这些食物我们一家子只够吃一个星期。

译文: Our family can only do with the food for no more than one week.

(九) 非名词性主语

1. 动词主语

(36) 我性急图快,走路快,下笔快,吃饭更快,简直是狼吞虎咽。(夏衍《无题》)

译文: I'm impetuous and tend to rush all things. *I walk* quickly, *I write* quickly, *I eat* even more quickly or, so to speak, just wolf down my food.

2. 数词主语

(37) 五十以学易,可以无大过矣。(梁实秋《时间即生命》)

译文: Confucius says, "I shall be free of great faults if I can live long enough to begin the study of *Yi at the age of 50*."

3. 形容词主语

(38)漂漂亮亮引人心悦啊。

译文: Lovely things are always pleasing to people.

(十)零形主语

(39)Φ勤于动脑筋,则Φ能经常保持脑中血液的流通状态,而且Φ能通过脑筋协调控制全身的功能。(季羡林《长寿之道》)

译文: Regular use of the head will ensure the normal circulation of cerebral blood and our control of the whole bodily function through its coordination.

六

汉语主语英译技巧

汉语主语的类型多而复杂,在汉译英的过程中必须高度重视主语的确立,因为在英语中主语对句子具有全面统摄功能,是句子谓语讨论、描写或叙述的对象,也是搭建英语句子框架的基石。主语没有确立,就无法考虑其他句子成分的配置。不管汉语主语如何错综复杂,都必须按实际情况相应转换为英语施事主语、受事主语、形式主语或话题等四类。关于汉语主语的英译,一般有三种具体的翻译技巧:一致法(The Concord Method: Equivalent Subject)、调整法(The

Adjustment Method: Adjusted Subject) 和意译法 (The Free Method: Inferred Subject & Supplemented Subject)。

(一)一致法

根据刘宓庆(1991)的研究,70%的汉语句子的主语可以直接转换为英语句子的主语,也即原文与译文的主语完全一致。

- (40)独有这一件小事,却总是浮在我眼前,有时反更分明,教我惭愧,催我自新,并且增长我的勇气和希望。(鲁迅《一件小事》)
- 译文: Yet *this small incident* keeps coming back to me, often more vivid than in actual life, teaching me shame, spurring me on to reform, and imbuing me with fresh courage and fresh hope.
 - (41)发展是人类社会追求的永恒主题。

译文: Development dominates the center stage that human society is constantly after.

(二)调整法

有些汉语句子中处于主位的成分不宜直接对应翻译成英语句子的主语。这种情况下,我们需要从汉语句子中寻找其他成分来充当英语语句子的主语。由于是通过寻找其他句子成分来充当英语句子的主语,因此我们称之为"调整法"。调整主语是汉英翻译中极为重要而普遍的技巧,还可具体细分为下列几种技巧:

1. 反宾为主

将汉语句子中处于宾语位置的成分转化为英语句子的主语,统领全句。例如:

(42) 我不能找出一句适当的话来形容我的心中的悲哀和纪念他的人格的伟大! (叶紫《悼高尔基》)

译文: Words failed me as to how grieved I was and how inspired I was with respect for him.

- (43)加快经济发展方式转变,关键要有强大外力,就像石墨结构向金刚石结构转化需要高温高压外加催化剂那样苛刻的外界条件一样。
- 译文: The transformation of economic development pattern has to be achieved with strong external force, just like the harsh conditions of high temperature, high pressure and catalyst required when graphite is transformed into diamond.

2. 变动为主

汉语句子中的动词往往可以转换为英语句子的主语,即变动为主,但必须使 用该动词的非谓语动词形式,因为英语句子的主语必须具有名词性。例如:

(44)择书比择友简单得多。(金圣华《书与人》)

译文: To choose a book is much easier than to make friends with a person.

(45)只要我们坚定信心、砥砺勇气、携手共进,一定能够早日实现山清水秀天蓝地绿的美好愿景。

译文: A firm determination, great courage and joint efforts will promise a beautiful landscape with blue sky, clear water and green mountains.

- 3. 与五官有关的表达可转换成人称代词主格或普通名词来充当主语
 - (46) 这几天心里颇不宁静。(朱自清《荷塘月色》)

译文: I have felt quite upset recently.

(47)人们的心悬了起来又沉了下去。(邵宝健《永远的门》)

译文: The neighbors felt curious and then became angry.

(48) "你的身体吃不了那种苦。" (谢冰莹《初恋》)

译文: "Physically, you won't be able to go through the hardships!"

(49)他的头脑里一直就想着莎士比亚的翻译这件事。

译文: He had been thinking about the translation of Shakespeare all that time.

4. 汉语存现句中的主语

存现句一般以"出现""有""挂""存在"等具有"存现"意义的动词作为谓语动词,主语通常在句尾部分,翻译成英语时可调整到句首作英语句子的主语。如果英语句子保留汉语存现句结构,也可以将主语放在句子末尾。

(50)脑海中为什么只有他的影子呢? (谢冰莹《初恋》)

译文: How come only his image is rising in my mind?

(51)如今,每逢我打开一本英文书时,眼前马上会浮起我那第一位美国老师的神态。(冯亦代《我的第一位美国老师》)

译文: Whenever I open an English book, the image of my first American teacher will immediately appear before my eyes.

5. 把字句和使字句中的主语

- 一般情况下,汉译英时可以将把字句或使字句转换成英语被动句,这样一来把字句中的宾语就转换成主语了。
- (52)以后,离开了北平,这只茶缸又陪伴我经历了解放战争中的几年,而且,它常常使我清晰地回忆起那位青年妇女的含泪的眼神——在穷困与内战中经受着痛苦的北平人民的眼神。(万全《搪瓷茶缸》)

译文: Later, after leaving Peiping, I went through several years of the War of Liberation in company with the mug. With the mug, I was often vividly reminded of the tearful eyes of the young woman—tearful eyes typical of the common people of Peiping in the throes of hunger and civil war.

(53)他把花园整修一新了。

译文: His garden was much brimmed by him.

(三)意译法之一: 推导主语

1. 根据汉语句子中的某一实义名词(词组)推导出英语句子的主语

有些汉语句子的主语表面上可直接转换为英语句子的主语,但根据上下文具体情况,它可能译为状语或宾语等其他句子成分更为合适,这时就需推导出一个与之相关的名词来充当英语句子的主语。例如:

(54)人生不过百年,每天费上两个钟头,统计起来,要有多少钟头啊! (季 ... 美林《长寿之道》)

译文: Few people live to be 100 years old. Two hours per day during one's life time—what a tremendous amount of time it would add up to!

(55)三十年代的上海高楼大厦,与香港差不多,此后高楼没有再生高楼,如今比不上香港了,也比不上北京了。(吴冠中《上海街头》)

译文: In the 1930s, *Shanghai* used to compare well with Hong Kong for skyscrapers and high-rises. But later, when it ceased to erect more, it began to lag behind Hong Kong and even Beijing.

(56)年复一年,小径上的女人孤独的背影,显得越来越苍老了。(何为《生命》)

译文: As the years went by, *the woman*, a regular solitary visitor on the path, became older and older.

(57)能欣赏自己,才能敬业乐业,写文章的人,若老是觉得自己的文章不行, 我不相信他有信心涂下去。(英培安《欣赏自己》)

译文: Self-appreciation is therefore the key to professional dedication and enjoyment of work. One will lose confidence in continuing with writing when he ceases to admire his own essays.

2. 从人称代词所有格结构中推导出人称代词主语

(58) 我们的环保事业在过去的30年里有了很大的发展。

译文: With the unremitting efforts, *we* have achieved a lot in environmental protection in the past 30 years.

(59) 我的活力这时大约有些凝滞了,坐着没有动。(鲁迅《一件小事》)

译文: Almost paralyzed at that juncture, I sat there motionless.

(60) 我们的汽车停在大马路上。(巴金《一千三百圆》)

译文: We parked the car by the side of a big street.

(61)在我第一次和他见面的时候,他的视线和我的视线互相接触的一刹那,

他便撒下了爱的种子在我的心田。(谢冰莹《初恋》)

译文: During my first encounter with him, the moment we had an eye contact, he instantly sowed a seed of love in my heart.

(四)意译法之二:增补主语

许多汉语句子的主语常常隐身,导致大量零形主语句(也即传统语法中的"无主句")产生。主要原因如下:第一,话题式主语以及以动词开头的谓词性非主谓句中主语常常隐身;第二,一些叙述自然现象的句子、固定短语、各种规章制度、政府报告中的各种目标和要求,经常不使用主语;第三,有些句子不言自明,所以主语往往会隐身。如果要把上述无主句翻译成英语,我们必须依据上下文情境并通过各种句法手段将隐于其间的主语凸显出来,也即增补句子主语,这是另一种意译法。

1. 增补人称代词

- (62)今晚在院子里坐着乘凉,忽然想起日日走过的荷塘,在这满月的光里, 总该另有一番样子吧。(朱自清《荷塘月色》)
- 译文: Tonight, when I was sitting in the yard enjoying the cool, it occurred to me that the Lotus Pond, which I pass by every day, must assume quite a different look in such a moonlit night.
- (63)每走进百货公司,看到那些洁白的、柔和的、米黄色的和花色诱人的搪瓷茶缸,总感到一种愉快。(万全《搪瓷茶缸》)
- 译文: Whenever *I* visit a department store, *I* always take delight in seeing the enamel mugs which, pure white or creamy, are graceful in pattern and color.
- (64)做这一行必须默默耕耘,若想抱着沽名钓誉的心,还是趁早别干。(金 圣华《一座长桥》)
- 译文: You have to toil away in obscurity. If you want to go after fame and compliments, you had better not choose this profession.
- (65)纪念他和哀痛他,只能由他遗留下来的作品里去找寻我们"怎样去生活"的路。(叶紫《悼高尔基》)
- 译文: What *we* can do while commemorating and mourning for the great writer is to search among the works he has left behind for guidance as to how to "live on".

2. 增补泛指代词或名词

(66)将心比心、推己及人。

译文: You would be more considerate of others if you put yourself in others' place.

(67)精诚所至,金石为开。

译文: No difficulty is insurmountable if one sets his mind to it.

- 3. 增补具体名词或人称代词
- (68)虽然是满月,天上却有一层淡淡的云,所以不能朗照; ·····(朱自清《荷塘月色》)
- **译文:** Although *it* is a full moon, shining through a film of clouds, *the light* is not at its brightest;... (朱纯深译)
- (69)此文纯属虚构,绝无其人其事,望读者万勿"对号入座"!(梁晓声《中国话》)
- 译文: This piece of article is pure fiction. It is by no means based on any real event, and *no attempt* should be made by any reader to identify with any character herein.
- (70)下了电车,走过铁路,就是一条有相当热闹的乡村的街。(谢冰莹《樱之家》)

译文: After alighting from a street car and crossing a railway track, *I* came to a busy village street.

- 4. 增补形式主语 lt 或强调句中的形式主语 lt
 - (71) 学然后而知不足。

译文: *It* is only after learning that one would never be satisfied with himself.

(72) 学英语比学西班牙语容易多了。

译文: *It* is much easier to learn English than Spanish.

- 5. 增补 It 表示自然现象、时间、事件等,或习语中难以厘清的主语
- (73)最令人怵目惊心的一件事,是看着钟表上的秒针一下一下的移动,每 移动一下就是表示我们的寿命已经缩短了一部分。(梁实秋《时间即生命》)
- 译文: *It* is most startling to hear a watch or clock clicking away the seconds, each click indicating the shortening of one's life by a little bit.
 - (74)得知者难,失之者易。

译文: It had been hard enough to get, and it would be easier to lose.



汉语话题英译技巧

如前所述,主语是句法层面的概念,话题是段落或篇章层面的语用概念,主语与话题可以合二为一。话题有时会隐身,尤其是在以意合为主的汉语语篇中;而在以形合为主的英语语篇中,话题往往以显性形式出现。

话题链的建构机制是什么呢?在同一话题的统摄下,语篇中的各个单句一般

以全称名词(包括同义词或近义词)、代词或零形形式回指话题,这就是话题链的建构机制。话题链既可以是微型的段落也可以是相对较长的篇章,统摄整个语篇的话题,以不同形式与语篇中的每个句子发生关联,也即话题必须映射到每个句子上。必须注意的是,汉语句子可以以零形形式回指话题,但英语句子似乎只能以名词或代词形式回指话题,不能以零形形式回指话题,这是汉英两种语言建构话题链的不同之处。因此,在汉英翻译过程中我们必须注意话题映射到各个句子的结构形式,或各个句子回指话题的结构形式。例如:

(75) 永州之野产异蛇,黑质而白章; 触草木,尽死; 以啮人,无御之者。然得而腊之以为饵,可以已大风、挛踠、痿、疠,去死肌,杀三虫。其始,太医以王命聚之,岁赋其二,募有能捕之者,当其租入。永之人争奔走焉。(柳宗元《捕蛇者说》)

译文: In the wilderness on the outskirts of Yongzhou there exists a kind of snake with black skin marked with white stripes. Any plant dies upon its touch and anyone bitten by it is doomed to die. But once it is caught and dehydrated, it can serve as an ingredient of a traditional medicine for the cure of leprosy, arthritis, swollen necks, malignant tumors, the removal of decayed flesh, and the elimination of three kinds of worms that cause illness. Since early times the court physician has ordered the people in the name of the emperor to hand in snakes twice a year. Whoever does so is exempted from taxation. People in Yongzhou are vying with one another to catch snakes. (罗经国译)

原文是一个完整的语篇,由三个密切相关的话题链建构而成。其中,第一个话题链是:"永州之野产异蛇,黑质而白章;触草木,尽死;以啮人,无御之者。然得而腊之以为饵,可以已大风、挛踠、瘘、疠,去死肌,杀三虫。"其话题是"异蛇",建构此话题链的各个分句均聚焦"异蛇"的特征、毒性以及药引功用等。译文 In the wilderness on the outskirts of Yongzhou there exists a kind of snake with black skin marked with white stripes 用 there be 存在句型引出话题,忠实地传达了原文的意思。然而,将"触草木,尽死"译为 Any plant dies upon its touch and anyone bitten by it is doomed to die 不尽妥当。理由有二:其一,该句前面引出的话题"异蛇"必须映射到该句主语的位置以实现话题的延续。当然,该句前面引出的话题"异蛇"必须映射到该句主语的位置以实现话题的延续。当然,该句前面引出的话题"异蛇"也可以映射到该句宾语的位置,但必须是在话题能够顺利延续或不离题的情况下才可以这样做。其二,译文用 any plant 作为句子的主语,容易误导读者以为作者又要引入一个新话题了,但通读整个语篇(包括第二个和第三个话题链)后我们发现作者始终没有把 plant 作为一个独立话题展开讨论。由此可见,译文阻碍了话题"异蛇"顺利延续到其他句子。如果改译为 The snake easily exterminates any plant when the plant is touched upon 就能顺利延续"异蛇"这一话题,其他各

句均可用代词或名词(包括同义词或近义词)回指"异蛇"。

第二个话题链"其始,太医以王命聚之,岁赋其二,募有能捕之者,当其租入"的话题是"太医"。译文 Since early times the court physician has ordered the people in the name of the emperor to hand in snakes twice a year 很好地引出了"太医"这个话题。但是将"募有能捕之者,当其租入"译为 Whoever does so is exempted from taxation 似乎没能很好地延续"太医"这一话题,如果改译为 He claimed whoever did so would be exempted from taxation 则能有效地延续话题。

第三个话题链是一个单独的句子"永之人争奔走焉"。

本书建议将译文改为三个独立的段落,也即一个话题链对应一段翻译。

改译: In the wilderness of Yongzhou there grows a bizarre kind of snake, and it has black skin with white stripes. The deadly poisonous reptile easily exterminates any plant when the plant is touched upon. It can also cruelly kill anyone who suffers from an unlucky bite. However, such a vicious snake, when dehydrated, can also serve as an ingredient of a traditional medicine for the cure of leprosy, arthritis, swollen necks, malignant tumors, the removal of decayed flesh. And it can even eliminate three kinds of worms that cause illness in the human body.

Since early times *the court physician* has ordered the local people in the name of the emperor to present the treasure of snakes twice a year. *He* claimed whoever did so would be exempted from taxation.

Thus, *people in Yongzhou* are vying with one another in hot pursuit of such noxious serpents.

(76)且说黛玉自那日弃舟登岸时,便有荣国府打发了轿子并拉行李的车辆久候了。这林黛玉常听得母亲说过,他外祖母家与别家不同。他近日所见的这几个三等仆妇,吃穿用度,已是不凡了,何况今至其家。因此步步留心,时时在意,不肯轻易多说一句话,多行一步路,惟恐被人耻笑了他去。自上了轿,进入城中,从纱窗向外瞧了一瞧,其街市之繁华,人烟之阜盛,自与别处不同。又行了半日,忽见街北蹲着两个大石狮子,三间兽头大门,门前列坐着十来个华冠丽服之人。正门却不开,只有东西两角门有人出入。正门之上有一匾,匾上大书"敕造宁国府"五个大字。黛玉想道:"这必是外祖之长房了。"想着,又往西行,不多远,照样也是三间大门,方是荣国府了。(曹雪芹《红楼梦》)

仔细分析,发现这是一个事件叙述、心理活动描述以及空间描写交织在一起的综合性语篇。其中,"且说黛玉自那日弃舟登岸时,便有荣国府打发了轿子并拉行李的车辆久候了"叙述的是一个事件。"这林黛玉常听得母亲说过,他外祖母家与别家不同。他近日所见的这几个三等仆妇,吃穿用度,已是不凡了,何况

今至其家。因此步步留心,时时在意,不肯轻易多说一句话,多行一步路,惟恐被人耻笑了他去"描述的是黛玉的心理活动,也即黛玉对自己说了一番话。"自上了轿,进入城中,从纱窗向外瞧了一瞧,其街市之繁华,人烟之阜盛,自与别处不同。又行了半日,忽见街北蹲着两个大石狮子,三间兽头大门,门前列坐着十来个华冠丽服之人。正门却不开,只有东西两角门有人出入。正门之上有一匾,匾上大书'敕造宁国府'五个大字"开始叙述另一事件,但叙述过程中夹杂着景物描写。"黛玉想道:'这必是外祖之长房了。'想着,又往西行,不多远,照样也是三间大门,方是荣国府了"是对黛玉另一心理活动的描述。

实际上,例(76)是一个由四个话题链建构的语篇,也即具有时间性的事件描述与具有空间性的状态描写(包括心理描写)交织于一个汉语语篇中。英国汉学家大卫·霍克斯把这个自成一体的汉语语篇翻译成四个独立的英语段落。

译文: On the day of her arrival in the capital, Dai-yu stepped ashore to find covered chairs from the Rong mansion for her and her women and a cart for the luggage ready waiting on the quay.

She had often heard her mother say that her Grandmother Jia's home was not like other people's houses. The servants she had been in contact with during the past few days were comparatively low-ranking ones in the domestic hierarchy, yet the food they ate, the clothes they wore, and everything about them was quite out of the ordinary. Dai-yu tried to imagine what the people who employed these superior beings must be like. When she arrived at their house she would have to watch every step she took and weigh every word she said, for if she put a foot wrong they would surely laugh her to scorn.

Dai-yu got into her chair and was soon carried through the city walls. Peeping through the gauze panel which served as a window, she could see streets and buildings more rich and elegant and throngs of people more lively and numerous than she had ever seen in her life before. After being carried for what seemed a very great length of time, she saw, on the north front of the east-west street through which they were passing, two great stone lions crouched one on each side of a triple gateway whose doors were embellished with animal-heads. In front of the gateway ten or so splendidly dressed flunkeys sat in a row. The centre of the three gates was closed, but people were going in and out of the two side ones. There was a board above the centre gate on which were written in large characters the words:

NING-GUO HOUSE

Founded and Constructed by

Imperial Command

Dai-yu realized that this must be where the elder branch of her grandmother's

family lived. The chair proceeded some distance more down the street and presently there was another triple gate, this time with the legend

RONG-GUO HOUSE

above it.



翻译技巧综合运用

荷塘月色 Moonlight over the Lotus Pood

朱自清(文)朱纯深(译)

这几天心里颇不宁静。今晚在院子里坐着乘凉,忽然想起日日走过的荷塘, 在这满月的光里,总该另有一番样子吧。月亮渐渐地升高了,墙外马路上孩子们 的欢笑,已经听不见了;妻在屋里拍着闰儿,迷迷糊糊地哼着眠歌。我悄悄地披 了大衫,带上门出去。

It has been rather disquieting these days. Tonight, when I was sitting in the yard enjoying the cool, it occurred to me that the Lotus Pond, which I pass by every day, must assume quite a different look in such a moonlit night. A full moon was rising high in the sky; the laughter of children playing outside had died away; in the room, my wife was patting the son, Run-er, sleepily humming a cradle song. Shrugging on an overcoat, quietly, I made my way out, closing the door behind me.

沿着荷塘,是一条曲折的小煤屑路。这是一条幽僻的路;白天也少人走,夜晚更加寂寞。荷塘四面,长着许多树,蓊蓊郁郁的。路的一旁,是些杨柳,和一些不知道名字的树。没有月光的晚上,这路上阴森森的,有些怕人。今晚却很好,虽然月光也还是淡淡的。

Alongside the Lotus Pond runs a small cinder footpath. It is peaceful and secluded here, a place not frequented by pedestrians even in the daytime; now at night, it looks more solitary, in a lush, shady ambience of trees all around the pond. On the side where the path is, there are willows, interlaced with some others whose names I do not know. The foliage, which, in a moonless night, would loom somewhat frighteningly dark, looks very nice tonight, although the moonlight is not more than a thin, greyish veil.

路上只我一个人,背着手踱着。这一片天地好像是我的;我也像超出了平常的自己,到了另一世界里。我爱热闹,也爱冷静;爱群居,也爱独处。像今晚上,

一个人在这苍茫的月下,什么都可以想,什么都可以不想,便觉是个自由的人。 白天里一定要做的事,一定要说的话,现在都可不理。这是独处的妙处,我且受 用这无边的荷香月色好了。

I am on my own, strolling, hands behind my back. This bit of the universe seems in my possession now; and I myself seem to have been uplifted from my ordinary self into another world. I like a serene and peaceful life, as much as a busy and active one; I like being in solitude, as much as in company. As it is tonight, basking in a misty moonshine all by myself, I feel I am a free man, free to think of anything, or of nothing. All that one is obliged to do, or to say, in the daytime, can be very well cast aside now. That is the beauty of being alone. For the moment, just let me indulge in this profusion of moonlight and lotus fragrance.

曲曲折折的荷塘上面, 弥望的是田田的叶子。叶子出水很高, 像亭亭的舞女的裙。层层的叶子中间, 零星地点缀着些白花, 有袅娜地开着的, 有羞涩地打着朵儿的; 正如一粒粒的明珠, 又如碧天里的星星, 又如刚出浴的美人。微风过处, 送来缕缕清香, 仿佛远处高楼上渺茫的歌声似的。这时候叶子与花也有一丝的颤动, 像闪电般, 霎时传过荷塘的那边去了。叶子本是肩并肩密密地挨着, 这便宛然有了一道凝碧的波痕。叶子底下是脉脉的流水, 遮住了, 不能见一些颜色; 而叶子却更见风致了。

All over this winding stretch of water, what meets the eye is a silken field of leaves, reaching rather high above the surface, like the skirts of dancing girls in all their grace. Here and there, layers of leaves are dotted with white lotus blossoms, some in demure bloom, others in shy bud, like scattering pearls, or twinkling stars, or beauties just out of the bath. A breeze stirs, sending over breaths of fragrance, like faint singing drifting from a distant building. At this moment, a tiny thrill shoots through the leaves and lilies, like a streak of lightning, straight across the forest of lotuses. The leaves, which have been standing shoulder to shoulder, are caught shimmering in an emerald heave of the pond. Underneath, the exquisite water is covered from view, and none can tell its colour; yet the leaves on top project themselves all the more attractively.

月光如流水一般,静静地泻在这一片叶子和花上。薄薄的青雾浮起在荷塘里。叶子和花仿佛在牛乳中洗过一样;又像笼着轻纱的梦。虽然是满月,天上却有一层淡淡的云,所以不能朗照;但我以为这恰是到了好处——酣眠固不可少,小睡也别有风味的。月光是隔了树照过来的,高处丛生的灌木,落下参差的斑驳的黑影,峭楞楞如鬼一般;弯弯的杨柳的稀疏的倩影,却又像是画在荷叶上。塘中的月色并不均匀;但光与影有着和谐的旋律,如梵婀玲上奏着的名曲。

The moon sheds her liquid light silently over the leaves and flowers, which, in the floating transparency of a bluish haze from the pond, look as if they had just been bathed in milk, or like a dream wrapped in a gauzy hood. Although it is a full moon, shining through a film of clouds, the light is not at its brightest; it is, however, just right for me—a profound sleep is indispensable, yet a snatched doze also has a savour of its own. The moonlight is streaming down through the foliage, casting bushy shadows on the ground from high above, jagged and checkered, as grotesque as a party of spectres; whereas the benign figures of the drooping willows, here and there, look like paintings on the lotus leaves. The moonlight is not spread evenly over the pond, but rather in a harmonious rhythm of light and shade, like a famous melody played on a violin.

荷塘的四面,远远近近,高高低低都是树,而杨柳最多。这些树将一片荷塘重重围住;只在小路一旁,漏着几段空隙,像是特为月光留下的。树色一例是阴阴的,乍看像一团烟雾;但杨柳的丰姿,便在烟雾里也辨得出。树梢上隐隐约约的是一带远山,只有些大意罢了。树缝里也漏着一两点路灯光,没精打采的,是渴睡人的眼。这时候最热闹的,要数树上的蝉声与水里的蛙声;但热闹是他们的,我什么也没有。

Around the pond, far and near, high and low, are trees. Most of them are willows. Only on the path side, can two or three gaps be seen through the heavy fringe, as if specially reserved for the moon. The shadowy shapes of the leafage at first sight seem diffused into a mass of mist, against which, however, the charm of those willow trees is still discernible. Over the trees appear some distant mountains, but merely in sketchy silhouette. Through the branches are also a couple of lamps, as listless as sleepy eyes. The most lively creatures here, for the moment, must be the cicadas in the trees and the frogs in the pond. But the liveliness is theirs, I have nothing.

忽然想起采莲的事情来了。采莲是江南的旧俗,似乎很早就有,而六朝时为盛;从诗歌里可以约略知道。采莲的是少年的女子,她们是荡着小船,唱着艳歌去的。 采莲人不用说很多,还有看采莲的人。那是一个热闹的季节,也是一个风流的季节。 梁元帝《采莲赋》里说得好:

Suddenly, something like lotus-gathering crosses my mind. It used to be celebrated as a folk festival in the South, probably dating very far back in history, most popular in the period of Six Dynasties. We can pick up some outlines of this activity in the poetry. It was young girls who went gathering lotuses, in sampans and singing love songs. Needless to say, there were a great number of them doing the gathering, apart from those who were watching. It was a lively season, brimming with vitality, and romance. A brilliant

description can be found in *Lotus Gathering* written by the Yuan Emperor of the Liang Dynasty.

于是妖童媛女,荡舟心许; 鹢首徐回,兼传羽杯; 櫂将移而藻挂,船欲动而萍开。尔其纤腰束素,迁延顾步; 夏始春余,叶嫩花初,恐沾裳而浅笑, 畏倾船而敛裾。

So those charming youngsters row their sampans, heart buoyant with tacit love, pass on to each other cups of wine while their bird-shaped prows drift around. From time to time their oars are caught in dangling algae, and duckweed float apart the moment their boats are about to move on. Their slender figures, girdled with plain silk, tread watchfully on board. This is the time when spring is growing into summer, the leaves a tender green and the flowers blooming—among which the girls are giggling when evading an outreaching stem, their skirts tucked in for fear that the sampan might tilt.

可见当时嬉游的光景了。这真是有趣的事,可惜我们现在早已无福消受了。

That is a glimpse of those merrymaking scenes. It must have been fascinating; but unfortunately we have long been denied such a delight.

于是又记起《西洲曲》里的句子:

Then I recall those lines in *Ballad of Xizhou Island*:

采莲南塘秋,莲花过人头;低头弄莲子,莲子清如水。

Gathering the lotus, I am in the South Pond,

The lilies in autumn reach over my head;

Lowering my head I toy with the lotus seeds.

Look, they are as fresh as the water underneath.

今晚若有采莲人,这儿的莲花也算得"过人头"了;只不见一些流水的影子, 是不行的。这令我到底惦着江南了。——这样想着,猛一抬头,不觉已是自己的 门前;轻轻地推门进去,什么声息也没有,妻已睡熟好久了。

If there were somebody gathering lotuses tonight, she could tell that the lilies here are high enough to "reach over her head"; but, one would certainly miss the sight of the water. So my memories drift back to the South after all.

Deep in my thoughts, I looked up, just to find myself at the door of my own house. Gently I pushed the door open and walked in. Not a sound inside, my wife had been fast asleep for quite a while.

翻译技巧综合分析

1. 汉语主语与话题翻译技巧

没有月光的晚上,这路上阴森森的,有些怕人。今晚却很好,虽然月光也还是淡淡的。

译文: The foliage, which, in a moonless night, would loom somewhat frighteningly dark, looks very nice tonight, although the moonlight is not more than a thin, greyish veil.

汉语句子的主语一般可以直接对应转换成英语句子的主语,但有时不宜直接对应转换,而必须结合上下文语境从句子中寻找其他合适的成分或新增词语使之成为英语句子的主语。该例原文描述的是夜晚的境况——阴森、可怕,似乎没有提到树叶,但译者结合上下文语境推导出,夜晚阴森可怕是因为树叶挡住了光,地面上会黑漆漆的,因此将 foliage 确立为英语句子的主语符合原文作者的意图,这样做是一种更高层次的忠实。

2. 汉语动词与谓语结构英译技巧

忽然想起采莲的事情来了。

译文: Suddenly, something like lotus-gathering crosses my mind.

英语句子的谓语动词分为行为动词与非行为动词类(如存在动词)。发生在过去某一时间内的事件是典型的有界结构事件(第二章将介绍有关"有界结构"与"无界结构"的概念),其谓语动词应采用有界结构形式,也即过去时或完成时等形式,不应采用一般现在时形式。"忽然想起采莲的事情来了"是发生在过去的一件事情,是一次偶发事件,是典型的有界结构事件,因此应把 crosses 改为crossed,否则会误导读者认为这种事情是经常发生的常态事件。同理,将"于是又记起《西洲曲》里的句子"译为 Then I recall those lines in *Ballad of Xizhou Island* 也是忽视了"记起《西洲曲》里的句子"是个有界结构事件,应改译为: Then I recalled those lines in *Ballad of Xizhou Island* 或 I was reminded of those lines in *Ballad of Xizhou Island*.

改译: Suddenly, there appeared a picture of lotus-gathering in my mind.

3. 汉语宾语与受事结构英译技巧

虽然是满月, 天上却有一层淡淡的云, 所以不能朗照;

译文: Although it is a full moon, shining through a film of clouds, the light is not at its brightest;

谓语动词与宾语遵从"有界结构联动机制",即如果谓语动词表达的是一种已经完成的动作或一种明确的结果,那么其联动的宾语相应地宜采用有界结构;

反之,则采用无界结构。根据"有界结构联动机制",谓语动词必须用过去时或完成时来表示动作或状态已经完成或存在,与之相联动的宾语也必须用定量化的名词词组。本例中,"虽然是满月,天上却有一层淡淡的云"说的是当时的情况,属于已经发生或存在的状态,"一层淡淡的云"也是一个在数量上已经定量的名词词组。而译文 Although it is a full moon 采用现在时,表示现在或将来的情况,即每天天上都挂着一轮满月,与原作的意思不符,因此建议改译为 Although it was a full moon。

4. 汉语定语与修饰语结构英译技巧

沿着荷塘, 是一条曲折的小煤屑路。

译文: Alongside the Lotus Pond runs a small cinder footpath.

汉语中形容词、名词、动词(包括能愿动词)、代词、数量词以及相关词组均可做修饰词,一般位于中心词之前。英语中形容词、名词、代词、数量词以及相关词组、分词(现在或过去)、介词结构、从句均可做修饰语,可位于中心词之前或之后。本例中,"一条曲折的小煤屑路"这一名词词组蕴含四个修饰语:一个数量修饰语(一条)、两个性状修饰语(曲折的、小)以及一个性质修饰语(煤屑)。人们在认知事体时,一般按定量到非定量的顺序进行,因为定量信息容易认知,而非定量信息的处理需要参照其他元素,因此往往在定量项之后才开始。译者按照这个规则处理,并把"曲折的"之意融于 footpath 中译为 a small cinder footpath,可谓很符合英语的表达习惯。

5. 汉语状语与状语结构英译技巧

我悄悄地披了大衫,带上门出去。

译文: Shrugging on an overcoat, quietly, I made my way out, closing the door behind me.

汉语是一种以意合为主的语言,翻译时不能僵化地按照原文的语言结构,而要根据句子的意思,仔细甄别起状语功能的成分,用来表达与主句之间的一种关系,如时间、条件或原因等。原句中"我"的第一个动作是"披了大衫",第二个动作是"带上门",第三个动作是"出去"。当然,第二个动作与第三个动作几乎是同一瞬间完成的。依据动作顺序以及语义逻辑关系,译者把第一个动作和第三个动作译成非谓语动词表示伴随。这句译文自然地道,符合"忠实"与"通顺"的翻译标准。

6. 汉语补语与动补结构英译技巧

这样想着,猛一抬头,不觉已是自己的门前;轻轻地推门进去,什么声息也 没有,妻已睡熟好久了。

译文: Deep in my thoughts, I looked up, just to find myself at the door of my own

house. Gently I pushed the door open and walked in. Not a sound inside, my wife had been fast asleep for quite a while.

原文很好地诠释了汉语补语的特征。 "不觉已是自己的门前"属于非谓语结构作结果补语。译者将"这样想着,猛一抬头,不觉已是自己的门前"译成 Deep in my thoughts, I looked up, just to find myself at the door of my own house 是非常地道的表达,尤其 just to find myself at the door of my own house 这一表结果的非谓语结构体现了译者高超的英语表达水平。然而,把"轻轻地推门进去,什么声息也没有,妻已睡熟好久了"分开译成两个英语句子却是不忠实于原文的。这句话含有三个结果补语:"进去"是"推门"后的结果,"什么声息也没有"和"妻已睡熟好久了"又是"轻轻地推门进去"发现的结果。因此,我们建议把 Gently I pushed the door open and walked in. Not a sound inside, my wife had been fast asleep for quite a while 融合为一个复杂句即可,具体如下:

改译: Deep in my thoughts, I looked up, just to find myself at the door of my own house. Gently I pushed the door open and walked in, but conceived no sound inside, and I caught sight of my fast-asleep wife.

7. 汉语特殊句型翻译技巧

叶子和花仿佛在牛乳中洗过一样;又像笼着轻纱的梦。

译文: ...as if they had just been bathed in milk, or like a dream wrapped in a gauzy hood.

汉语和英语中都存在形式上是主动、意义上是被动的句子,例如"这些小说很好卖"可以对应翻译成 These novels sell well。相较于英语,汉语中这类句子更多一些,尤其是古汉语中,如出自《史记·越王勾践世家》中的名句"飞鸟尽,良弓藏;狡兔死,走狗烹"就是很好的例证。根据原文语境,译者把形式上的主动句翻译成英语的被动句是忠实的翻译。

8. 汉语否定结构英译技巧

叶子底下是脉脉的流水, 遮住了, 不能见一些颜色; 而叶子却更见风致了。

译文: Underneath, the exquisite water is covered from view, and none can tell its colour; yet the leaves on top project themselves all the more attractively.

汉语与英语中均有严密的否定机制以及表达否定的语言手段。本例译文 and none can tell its colour 中的 none 似乎欠妥,宜改为 and nobody can tell its colour。 none 主要是指 not any amount of something or not one of a group of people or things,也即具有强烈对比或强调的内涵,而 nobody 单纯指"没有任何人"这个意义。原文"不能见一些颜色"显然是指人不能看见颜色,不是物不能见其颜色。另外原文表达的是一个因果关系事件("叶子底下是脉脉的流水,遮住了"是原因,

"不能见一些颜色"是结果),不存在强烈的对比意义,因此用 nobody 比用 none 更得体。也可以将 nobody 转换为 you never,显得更加亲近、自然。

改译: Underneath, the clear water is covered from view, and you never can tell its colour; yet the leaves on top project themselves all the more attractively.

9. 汉语习语翻译技巧

这是一条幽僻的路; 白天也少人走, 夜晚更加寂寞。荷塘四面, 长着许多树, 蓊蓊郁郁的。

译文: It is peaceful and secluded here, a place not frequented by pedestrians even in the daytime; now at night, it looks more solitary, in a lush, shady ambience of trees all around the pond.

汉译英翻译实践中不可避免地会遇到习语的翻译(包括四字成语、歇后语以及其他惯用语等),翻译时要注意:第一,切忌望文生义;第二,语言要有艺术性,注意用词的精练以及上下文的对仗,不能用过于随便的口语句子来表达。原文中的"蓊蓊郁郁"属于汉语习语一类的语言表达,译成 a lush, shady ambience of trees 基本上表达了原文的意思,但 shady 一词有些冗余,因为 a lush ambience of trees 足以表达树木茂盛的意思,也即树木茂盛自然就会有阴凉的环境。其中 ambience 是指 a particular environment or surrounding influence。如果要进一步突出叶子茂密的话,建议把 lush 改为 frondent (叶子茂盛的)就更加贴切了。

改译: It is peaceful and secluded here, a path few people would tread on even in the daytime; now at night, it looks more desolate, in a frondent ambience of trees all around the pond.

10. 汉文化思维英译技巧

今晚在院子里坐着乘凉,忽然想起日日走过的荷塘,在这满月的光里,总该另有一番样子吧。

译文: Tonight, when I was sitting in the yard enjoying the cool, it occurred to me that the Lotus Pond, which I pass by every day, must assume quite a different look in such a moonlit night.

英语中有类似 I was doing homework when the telephone rang 这样的因果事件结构,使用的是主从结构,但汉语中往往使用并列结构进行对应。按照人的体验,说话者倾向于先建构一个背景(I was doing homework),然后再引出在这个背景下发生的具体的事件(the telephone rang)。例 10 中描述的背景是一个安静的氛围(I was sitting in the yard enjoying the cool),在此背景下发生的事情是 it occurred to me that the Lotus Pond, which I pass by every day, must assume quite a different look in such a moonlit night。换言之,I was sitting in the yard enjoying the

cool是背景(因), it occurred to me that the Lotus Pond, which I pass by every day, must assume quite a different look in such a moonlit night 是该背景下发生的事件(果)。鉴于英语倾向使用因果一体的主从结构,使得因与果不分离,建议改译如下:

改译: Tonight in the yard I was sitting, perceiving the cool pleasantly when it occurred to me that the Lotus Pond, which I pass by every day, must assume quite a different look in the moonlight.

翻

翻译练习

- 1. 翻译下列句子,注意确立句子主语。
 - (1) 耐心是一切聪明才智的基础。
 - (2) 天有不测风云。
 - (3) 广州近几年发生了巨大的变化。
 - (4) 我们的文章发表在了国际学术期刊上。
 - (5) 她的身体垮了。
 - (6) 他把文章翻译成西班牙语了。
 - (7) 这个家族的故事被拍成电影了。
 - (8) 要推进我们公司技术进步, 当然必须依靠我们自己的努力。
 - (9) 每逢我来到北京,眼前马上会浮现起王教授的神态。
 - (10)想到即将到来的婚礼,我的心情非常激动。
 - (11)来访者需打开提包,供安检人员检查。
 - (12)已经决定了,没有太多的时间容我考虑,容我犹豫。
 - (13)他一边慢慢地走回家,一边想为什么火车不肯等他两分钟。
 - (14) 我们的事业从胜利走向胜利。
 - (15)强化危险废物监管,以源头控制推动产业优化升级。
 - (16) 这一个白天真是漫长,让我有足够的时间回顾过去的三十五年。
 - (17) 记得是冬季的一天,从白天到黑天,一直下着很大的雪。
 - (18)自上了轿,进入城中,从纱窗向外瞧了一瞧,其街市之繁华,人烟之 阜盛,自与别处不同。
 - (19) 壬戌之秋,七月既望,苏子与客泛舟游于赤壁之下。清风徐来,水波 不兴。举酒属客,诵明月之诗,歌窈窕之章。
 - (20)晋太元中,武陵人捕鱼为业。缘溪行,忘路之远近。忽逢桃花林,夹 岸数百步,中无杂树,芳草鲜美,落英缤纷。

2. 翻译下列段落,注意主语与话题的英译技巧。

我多少次想把这一段经历记录下来,但不是为这段经历感到愧悔,便是为觉察到自己要隐瞒这段经历中的某些事情而感到羞耻,终于搁笔。自己常常是自己的对立面。阳光穿窗而入,斜晖在东墙上涂满灿烂的金黄。停留在山水轴上的蛾子蓦地飞起来,无声地在屋里旋转。太阳即将走完自己的路,但她明日还会升起,依旧沿着那条亘古不变的途径周而复始;蛾子却也许等不到明天便会死亡,变成一撮尘埃。世上万千生物活过又死去,有的自觉,有的不自觉,但都追求着可笑的长生或永恒。而实际上,所有的生物都获得了永恒,哪怕它只在世上存在过一秒钟。那一秒钟里便有永恒。我并不想去追求虚无缥缈的永恒。永恒,已经存在于我的生命中了。(张贤亮《男人的一半是女人》)