

A Brief Discussion on the Logic Problems in Chinese-English News Compilation: Taking China Daily as an Example

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Keywords: News compilation, Logic, Chinese-English Translation

Abstract: In recent years, Chinese government has emphasized the importance of strengthening China's communication ability and forming a discourse power equal to China's international status. *China Daily* is China's national English daily with an average circulation of more than 900,000 copies worldwide, serving as an important window for China's external publicity. The biggest problem faced by the translator during her working in *China Daily* is how to accurately translate Chinese news into English. Therefore, this paper is going to discuss how to improve Chinese-English news translation by using the method of case analysis. The case analysis materials in this paper are all from the author's English manuscripts when working in China Daily Website, involving the propaganda and economic development of local provinces and cities.

1. Introduction

News compilation refers to the editing and translating of news from one language to another language, so as to ensure readers to understand the news information expressed in its original language. The Chinese government has stressed the need to strengthen the country's communication capacity. Therefore, more and more provinces and cities begin to build and operate their own international communication platforms. However, due to the differences between English and Chinese, there are many problems encountered in Chinese-English news compilation. For example, we can see many cross-cultural communication and Chinglish problems like "long time no see" and "read the below information", which makes it hard for foreign readers to understand the original texts. The main reason for this phenomenon is that many translators do not understand the logical structure of English. Therefore, it is urgent to study how to get rid of the Chinese logic. This paper is going to explore the logical processing of Chinese-English news compilation text based on the case analysis of the translator's English manuscripts during his working in China Daily Website. It will elaborate from three aspects: the relationship between logic and information, the relationship between logic and clauses, as well as the relationship between logic and preposition.

2. Logic and News Compilation

As the main way of news communication, compilation builds a bridge for the communication between two different cultures. Chen pointed out that news compilation is the translation of the source language into those of equivalent meaning in the target language through the processing of translators. [1] From the author's perspective, news compilation is based on translation, but it is not exactly equivalent to translation. In the process of compilation, translators can make some word order adjustment, add or delete some information content. News texts are generally informational texts, which are characterized by information with strong logic and focus on text content rather than form.

Wu Shuchi believed that logic is an important way for translators to deeply understand the source text, and its function is to enhance the translator's ability to perceive the source text and urge the translator to carry out in-depth research on the source text.[2] Steiner believed that "understanding is translation" .[3] From the author's perspective, a well qualified translator must understand the logic meaning of the source texts and translate them into another language naturally and expressively.

2.1 Logic and Information Sorting

"Translation refers to reproducing the information of the source language with the most natural way to target language from the same style." [4]The definition given by translation theorist Eugene Nida summarized the whole connotation of translation: translation is a complex process of language conversion and information transmission. However, it is due to the different values of sentence elements in English and Chinese that translators often have problems in distinguishing the primary and secondary information in source texts. Chinese news is featured with information hybridity, which means there are hybrid information in one sentence and no clear distinction between primary and secondary information. However, Chinese language is characterized with parataxis, meaning that the logical relationship between sentences does not depend on linguistic forms. Therefore, it is more difficult for translators to judge the syntactic structure of Chinese language. In order to ensure the clarity of the translation, the translator must have a logical analysis of the source sentence. For example, determine the center words of the sentence, and find out which is the subject, verb and object. Let's check out the following case 1.

Case 1:

Source text: 阳澄湖美，巴城蟹肥。只要提起阳澄湖，便几乎都是跟阳澄湖大闸蟹联系在一起。巴城之所以被称为“天下第一蟹乡”，阳澄湖的大闸蟹功不可没。

The author's translation: Yangcheng Lake, a place with captivating views, is known for the tasty hairy crabs. Due to these crabs' popularity, Bacheng, where Yangcheng Lake locates, is titled as "China's first town of hairy crabs".

Final translation of foreign expert: Bacheng, a scenic town in Kunshan, is crowned as "China's First Town of Hairy Crabs" for its proximity to the strikingly attractive Yangcheng Lake, which produces the best hairy crabs in China.

Having read and analyzed the Chinese original text, it is not difficult to see that the whole sentence emphasized on Ba Cheng, the best crab town in the world, while the Yangcheng Lake hairy crabs serves as a supplementary modifier, explaining the reason why Ba Cheng is called "the best crab town in the world". Therefore, the normal logic of this sentence is: Yangcheng Lake is rich in hairy crabs, so the Bacheng city where Yangcheng Lake is located is known as crab Town, and it is titled as "China's first town of hairy crabs".

From the analysis of the author's translation, we can see that the author failed to distinguish the primary and secondary relationship information of the sentence, and mistakenly regarded

Yangcheng Lake as the key words. However, in the final translation, the foreign experts put the point on the information of "Bacheng" and took Bacheng as the starting point of the translation statement. Having referred to related information, Ba Cheng is a county of Kunshan city. Compared with the author's translation version, the revised translation added another clause to explain that Yangcheng Lake is rich in hairy crabs, so that the relationship between Ba Cheng and Yangcheng Lake is clearly presented.

From case 1, we can conclude that translators must use different structures to show readers the separate sense groups in English, for English is a hypotaxis language while Chinese is a parataxis language. For example, translators should analyze how different information are conveyed in sentences, so as to determine the keywords and unrelated information in a sentence. This is how he can ensure the fluency and structure of the translation text. At the same time, translators should fully understand the background information of relevant news to avoid misrepresentation, omission or arbitrary addition.

2.2 Logic and Clause

In the process of translation, once the narrative logic of Chinese is complicated, the translator will be easily influenced by the Chinese logic, and unconsciously add another clause. As Joan Pinkham pointed out: In the process of translation, the logical dislocation in a translated sentence is usually caused by wrong clause. [5] Therefore, a expressive and elegant translation version requires the translator to carefully consider whether to choose clause in the process of translation. Let's check out case 2.

Case 2:

Source text: 2017 车市, 无锡全市新能源汽车销量猛增 400%, 而小排量汽车的销量却在缓慢下降。新能源汽车由 2016 年的 864 辆增至 4400 多辆。

The author's translation: In 2017, the automobile market in Wuxi witnessed a dramatic increase in its green car sales at 400% compared with the previous year, with over 4,400 cars sold while the sales of small-displacement cars saw a slow decline. Year, with over 4,400 cars sold while the sales of small-displacement cars saw a slow decline.

Final translation of foreign expert: In 2017, the automobile market in Wuxi witnessed a 400% dramatic increase in green car sales over the previous year. More than 4,400 cars were sold in 2017, while the sales of small-displacement cars saw a slow decline.

Having read and analyzed the author's translation, it is easily seen that the author was deeply influenced by Chinese logic and used an clause as an accompanying adverbial to modify and explain the content of the previous sentence. So, the subject of the translation is "the automobile market (in 2017)". But the long distance between the clause and the subject will make it confusing for reader to understand the logic of the target text: whether the 4,400 green cars are sold in 2017 or 2016?

Compared with the author's translation version, the foreign expert removed redundant clauses and used "400%" as retributive, highlighting the important information and avoiding excessively long sentences without adhering to the structure of the original text, making the target language more logical and clean.

To be concluded, when processing the Chinese-English news translation, the translator should keep fully in mind whether to use a clause in the sentence and take consideration whether the readers can understand what translator's meaning faithfully. At the same time, the translator should also avoid overly cumbersome interpretive translation.

2.3 Logic and Prepositions

When it comes to prepositions in English language, there are a variety of rhetorical ways with a flexible and natural structure. Prepositions make no sense when they are used alone and they only make sense when they are in a whole sentence. A preposition can have many meanings when used in different sentences. Xie Jianping proposed that the selection of English prepositions should be based on the form of the source language as well as its deep connotation. [6] Wrong use of prepositions may make logic mistakes, which is not conducive to the reader's understanding. Let's check out case 3.

Case 3: the same with case 2

Having read and analyzed the expert's translation, it is seen that the foreign expert replaced some words, such as "over" instead of "compare with". According to related references, the word "over" means: If something happens over a particular period or time, it happens during that time; indicating the passing of time (Oxford Advanced Dictionary). When expressed in English language, especially in press releases writing, "compare with" is not always used. For example: The company recorded a 50% increase in profits over the previous year (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English). The word "over" has already conveyed the meaning of the comparison between two years, and it is more concise and precise.

To sum up, proper preposition use in English can enliven the target language, enrich the vocabulary, strengthen the tone, enhance the appeal of the language, and make the correct logic of the translation version. Therefore, translators need to consult the materials and choose the correct preposition expression.

3. Conclusion

Logic is an important basis for translators to understand the original text, which can help the translator understand the structure and deep meaning of the original sentences. With the improvement of China's international status, more and more foreigners are paying attention to China's current affairs, economic development, and cultural industry. Therefore, it is urgent for us to tell good China stories and promote China's international communication courses. The cases author listed in the paper all come from *China Daily*, which is China's national English daily. It is aimed to help news translators understand the logic meaning of the sentence, so that they can distinguish the key information and secondary information in a sentence, and use the correct words, prepositions and clauses. Moreover, in the process of translation, translators should carry on deep research on the background information of the original texts and also keep in mind the semantic logic problems. Only in this way can the translators make their news compilation work more logical, expressive and elegant.

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