

Unit 1 English-Chinese Translation Techniques

Lesson 1 Morphology in English-Chinese Translation

1. Differences between English and Chinese

English is a tree-like sentence structure language. An English sentence has a trunk bringing forth all the branches. The complexity of a sentence does not affect its trunk.

Example 1. **The use of heat pumps has been held back** largely by skepticism about advertiser's claims that heat pumps can provide as many as two units of thermal energy for each unit of electrical energy used, thus apparently contradicting the principle of energy conservation.

译文:热泵的使用受到阻碍主要是由于消费者对广告商宣称热泵消耗一个单位的电能可以提供两个单位的热能这种说法持怀疑态度而引起的,因为这显然同能量守恒原理相矛盾。

Example 2. **The computer performs a supervisory function** in the liquid-level control system by analyzing the process conditions against desired performance criteria and determining the changes in process variables to achieve optimum operation.

译文:在液位控制系统中,计算机执行着一种监控功能,它根据给定的特性指标来分析各种过程条件,并决定各过程变量的变化以获得最佳操纵。

Example 3. **There is no more difference**, but there is just the same kind of difference, between the mental operations of a man of science and those of an ordinary person, as there is between the operations and methods of a baker or of a butcher weighing out his goods in common scales, and the operations of a chemist in performing a difficult and complex analysis by means of his balance and finely graded weights.

译文:(没有什么更大的差别)科研人员的思考过程与普通人的思考过程的差别就等同于面包师或屠夫用普通的秤称量商品与化学家用天平和精密砝码进行困难复杂的分析之间的差别。

A Chinese sentence has a bamboo-like structure with different sections linking one another, each one expressing a relatively complete semantic meaning independently.

Example 4. “碧云天,黄叶地,西风紧,北雁南飞。”

English grammar is expressed by conjunctions, relative pronouns and morphological changes. In Chinese, a variety of grammatical relations are implied in the context such as active and passive, tense.

Example 5. 我以为你回家了。I thought you had gone home.

Example 6. 工作做完了。The work has been finished.

2. Methods in English-Chinese translation

As a general criterion of translation, the translators should not add or reduce text content

at will. However, due to the big difference between English and Chinese, it is difficult to find corresponding word in the new text during the actual translation process. Therefore, in order to accurately express the original information, the translators often need to do some addition or subtraction of translation. So some people think, a good translation is generally slightly longer than the original — because the original author and the SL readers rarely have the language and cultural barriers, but the TL reader does not have such convenience, so translators often need to add the content implied in the original for the TL reader to understand easily.

1) Amplification in English-Chinese translation

Amplification in English-Chinese Translation is mainly for the consideration of Chinese expression, which includes amplification of words omitted from the original and adding the necessary connectives, quantifiers, or plural concept, or for the considered of rhetorical coherence, so that translation can conform to Chinese idiomatic expression.

(1) Amplification by supplying words omitted in the original

Example 7. Matter can be changed into energy, and energy into matter.

译文:物质可以转化为能,能也可以**转化为**物质。

Example 8. The best conductor has the least resistance and the poorest the greatest.

译文:最好的导体电阻最小,最差的**导体**电阻最大。

Example 9. A proton has a positive charge and an electron a negative charge, but a neutron has neither.

译文:质子带正电,电子带负电,而中子**既不带正电也不带负电**。

(2) Amplification by supplying necessary connectives

Example 10. Heated, water will change into vapor.

译文:水**如**受热,**就会**汽化。

Example 11. However carefully boiler casings and steam pipes are sealed, some heat escapes and is lost.

译文:不管锅炉壳与蒸汽管封闭得多么严密,**还是**有一部分热量散失并损耗掉。

Example 12. Since air has weight, it exerts force on any object immersed in it.

译文:因为空气具有重量,**所以**处在空气中的任何物体都会受到空气的作用力。

Example 13. The pointer of ampere meter moves from zero to five and goes back to two.

译文:安培表的指针**先**从 0 转到 5,**然后**又回到 2。

(3) Amplification by supplying words to convey the concept of plurality

Example 14. Note that the **words** “velocity” and “speed” require explanation.

译文:“速度”和“速率”**这两个词**需要解释。

Example 15. He stretched his **legs** which were scattered with **scars**.

译文:他伸出**双腿**,露出腿上的道道**伤痕**。

Example 16. The mountains began to throw their long blue **shadows** over the valley.

译文:群山开始向山谷投下一道道蔚蓝色**长影**。

(4) Amplification by supplying words to make an abstract concept clear

Example 17. **Oxidation** will make iron and steel rusty.

译文:氧化作用会使钢铁生锈。

Example 18. **This lack of resistance** in very cold metals may become useful in electronic computers.

译文:这种在甚低温金属中**没有电阻的现象**可能对电子计算机很有用处。

Example 19. After all **preparations** were made, the plane took off.

译文:一切**准备工作**就绪以后,飞机就起飞了。

(5) Amplification by logical thinking

Example 20. Air pressure **decreases** with altitude.

译文:气压随海拔的**增加**而下降。

Example 21. I was taught that **two sides of a triangle** were greater than the third.

译文:我学过,三角形的**两边之和**大于第三边。

Example 22. This shows that the resistance of an electric conductor is inversely proportional to its cross-section area.

译文:这表明,导体电阻的**大小**与导体横截面积的**大小**成反比。

(6) Amplification by supplying words of generalization

Example 23. According to scientists, it takes nature 500 years to create an inch of topsoil.

译文:根据科学家们的**看法**,自然界要用 500 年的时间才能形成一英寸厚的表层土壤。

Example 24. The thesis summed up the new achievements made in electronic computers, artificial satellites and rockets.

译文:该论文总结了电子计算机、人造卫星和火箭**三方面**的新成就。

Example 25. The principal functions that may be performed by vacuum tubes are rectification, amplification, oscillation, modulation, and detection.

译文:真空管的**五大**主要功能是整流、放大、振荡、调制和检波。

(7) Amplification by necessary repetition

Example 26. Avoid using this computer in **extreme** cold, heat, dust or humidity.

译文:过冷、过热、灰尘**过重**、湿度**过大**的情况下,不要使用此计算机。

Example 27. I had experienced oxygen and/or engine **trouble**.

译文:我曾经遇到的情况,不是氧气设备**出故障**,就是引擎**出故障**,或者两者皆有。

(8) Amplification by necessary modification

Example 28. They could sense **her (Titanic) mass, her eerie quiet and ruined splendor of a lost age**.

译文:他们体会到它(泰坦尼克号)船体的巨大,感受到它周围的可怕沉寂,领略到因岁月的流逝而造成的凄凉景观。

2) Omission in English-Chinese translation

In general, Chinese is more concise than English. In English-Chinese translation, if many indispensable words in the original are translated into Chinese word for word, they will become unnecessary verbiage. Translation would seem rather cumbersome. Therefore

omission is widely used in English-Chinese translation. Its main purpose is to delete some of the dispensable, unsuitable words for idiomatic expressions, such as omission of the substantives as pronouns, verbs and functional words as articles, prepositions, conjunctions, etc.

(1) Omission of the pronoun

Pronouns are more frequently used in English than in Chinese. Therefore, when translated into Chinese, many English pronouns may be omitted so as to conform the rendering to the accustomed usage of Chinese expression.

Example 29. Different metals differ in **their** conductivity.

译文:不同的金属导体的导电性不同。

Example 30. The current will blow the fuses when **it** reaches certain limit.

译文:当电流达到一定界限时会使熔丝熔断。

(2) Omission of the article

The article is the hallmark of English nouns. When translated into Chinese, it is usually omitted except when the indefinite article is intended to indicate the numeral “one”, or “a certain”.

Example 31. **The** controlled output is the process quantity being controlled.

译文:被控输出量是指被控的过程变量。

Example 32. Any substance is made up of atoms whether it is **a** solid, **a** liquid, or **a** gas.

译文:任何物质,不论是固体、液体还是气体,都由原子组成。

Example 33. The direction of **a** force can be represented by **an** arrow.

译文:力的方向可以用箭头表示。

(3) Omission of the preposition

Chinese is characterized by its succinctness and the preposition appears less frequently in Chinese than in English, and therefore omission of prepositions is a common practice in English-Chinese translation.

Example 34. The difference **between** the two machines consists in power.

译文:这两台机器的差别在于功率不同。

Example 35. Hydrogen is the lightest element **with** an atomic weight of 1.0008.

译文:氢是最轻的元素,原子量为 1.0008。

(4) Omission of the conjunction

Chinese is considered an analytic language and many conjunctions that are indispensable in English may seem redundant in Chinese. Therefore, omission of the conjunction is a common practice in English-Chinese translation.

Example 36. **If** I had known it, I would not have joined in it.

译文:早知如此,我就不参加了。

Example 37. Like charges repel each other **while** opposite charges attract.

译文:同性电荷相斥,异性电荷相吸。

(5) Omission of the verb

As Chinese is a language of parataxis, its grammar is not so strict as that of English, and

predicative verbs in Chinese sometimes may also be omitted.

Example 38. When the pressure **gets** low, the boiling point **becomes** low.

译文:气压低,沸点就低。

Example 39. Solids expand and contract as liquids and gases **do**.

译文:如同液体和气体一样,固体也能膨胀和收缩。

Example 40. For this reason television signals **have** a short range.

译文:因此,电视信号的传播距离很短。

(6) Omission of the impersonal pronoun “it”

Example 41. This formula makes **it** easy to determine the wavelength of sounds.

译文:这一公式使得测定声音的波长十分简单。

Example 42. **It** was not until the middle of the 19th century that the blast furnace came into use.

译文:直到 19 世纪中叶,高炉才开始使用。

3) Conversion in English-Chinese translation

(1) Conversion into verb

One of the most remarkable differences between English and Chinese syntax is the use of the verb. It is taken for granted that an English sentence contains no more than one predicate verb, while in Chinese it is not unusual to have clusters of verbs in a simple sentence. Take the following sentence for example.

Example 43. Families upstairs have to carry pails to the hydrant downstairs for water.

译文:住在楼上的人家得提着水桶去楼下的水龙头处打水。

Four verbs are clustered in the Chinese version for an English simple sentence. This indicates obviously that in English-Chinese translation the conversion of English words of various parts of speech into Chinese verbs is a matter of common occurrence.

① Nouns converted into verbs

Example 44. Rockets have found **application** for the **exploration** of the universe.

译文:火箭用于探索宇宙。

Example 45. The **sight** and **sound** of our jet planes filled me with special longing.

译文:看到我们的喷气式飞机,听见隆隆的声音,我心驰神往。

② Prepositions converted into verbs

Example 46. A force is needed to move an object **against** inertia.

译文:为使物体克服惯性而运动,就需要一个力。

Example 47. Noise figure is minimized **by** a parameter amplifier.

译文:采用参数放大器可将噪声指数降到最低。

③ Adjectives converted into verbs

Example 48. Both of the substances are **soluble** in water.

译文:这两种物质都能溶于水。

Example 49. If low-cost power becomes **available** from nuclear power plants, the electricity crisis would be solved.

译文:如果能从核电站**获得**低成本电力,就会解决电力紧张问题。

④ Adverbs converted into verbs

Example 50. When the switch is **off**, the circuit is open and electricity doesn't go through.

译文:当开关**断开**时,电路就形成开路,电流不能通过。

Example 51. In this case the temperature in the furnace is **up**.

译文:这种情况下,炉温就**升高**。

(2) Conversion into nouns

Nouns account for an overwhelming part of the vocabulary both in Chinese and in English. Conversion between nouns and other parts of speech is also frequently adopted in English-Chinese translation.

① Verbs converted into nouns

Some verbs that are derived from nouns can hardly be translated literally so they are usually converted into nouns.

Example 52. Such materials are **characterized** by good insulation and high resistance to wear.

译文:这些材料的**特点是**:绝缘性好,耐磨性强。

Example 53. The design **aims** at automatic operation, easy regulation, simple maintenance and high productivity.

译文:设计的**目的在于**自动工作、调节方便、维护简易、生产率高。

② Adjectives converted into nouns

Adjectives with the definite articles to indicate categories of people, things, or adjectives used as predicative to indicate the nature of things may also be converted into nouns.

Example 54. Both the compounds are acids, **the former** is strong, **the latter** weak.

译文:这两种化合物都是酸,**前者**是强酸,**后者**是弱酸。

Example 55. In the fission process the fission fragments are very **radioactive**.

译文:在裂变过程中,裂变碎片具有强烈的**放射性**。

Example 56. IPC is more **reliable** than common computer.

译文:工控机的**可靠性**比普通计算机高。

③ Pronouns converted into nouns

English pronouns are more frequently used than Chinese pronouns. In order to make clear what they really refer to, we sometimes have to convert them into nouns, i. e., to repeat the nouns that they stand for.

Example 57. Radio waves are similar to light waves except that **their** wavelength is much greater.

译文:无线电波与光波相似,但**无线电波**的波长要长得多。

Example 58. The specific resistance of iron is not so small as **that** of copper.

译文:铁的电阻系数不如铜的**电阻系数**那样小。

Example 59. The result of this experiment is much better than **those** of previous ones.

译文:这次实验的结果比前几次的**实验结果**好得多。

Example 60. Experiment indicates that the new chip is about 2 times as integrative as **that** of the old ones.

译文:实验表明新型芯片的集成度是旧型芯片**集成度**的2倍。

(3) Conversion into adjectives

In English-Chinese translation there are some circumstances in which various other parts of speech in English can be converted into Chinese adjectives.

① Nouns converted into adjectives

Example 61. This experiment was a **success**.

译文:这个实验很**成功**。

② Adverbs converted into adjectives

Example 62. Earthquakes are **closely** related to faulting.

译文:地震与地层断裂有**密切**的关系。

Example 63. It is demonstrated that gases are **perfectly** elastic.

译文:人们已经证实,气体具有**理想**的弹性。

Example 64. The pressure **inside** equals the pressure **outside**.

译文:**内部**的压力和**外部**的压力相等。

(4) Conversion into adverbs

Sometimes, for the sake of convenience, some parts of speech in English may be converted into Chinese adverbs in English-Chinese translation.

Example 65. Below 4°C, water is in **continuous** expansion instead of **continuous** contraction.

译文:水在4°C以下就会**不断地**膨胀,而不是**不断地**收缩。

Example 66. Rapid evaporation at the heating-surface **tends** to make the steam wet.

译文:加热面上的迅速蒸发,**往往**使水蒸气的湿度变大。

Example 67. The **same** principles of low internal resistance also apply to milliammeters.

译文:低内阻原理也**同样**适用于毫安表。

(5) Conversion of sentence elements

Conversion in a broader sense includes the conversion of the “active voice” into the “passive”. Sometimes, it may involve the change of various elements of a sentence, such as from the subject to the object, and vice versa.

Example 68. As the match burns, **heat and light** are given off. (from the subject to the object)

译文:火柴燃烧时发出**光和热**。(从主语到宾语)

Example 69. This sort of stone has a **relative** density of 2.7. (from the object to the subject)

译文:这种石头的**相对密度**是2.7。(从宾语到主语)

Example 70. **Care** must be taken at all times to protect the instrument from dust and

damp. (from the subject to the predicate)

译文:应当始终**注意**保护仪器,不使其沾染灰尘和受潮。(从主语到谓语)

Example 71. Fuzzy control **is found** a effective way to control the systems without precise mathematic models.

译文:**人们发现**,模糊控制是一种控制不具备精确数学模型系统的有效方法。(从被动到主动)

4) Restructuring in English-Chinese translation

(1) Different sequences in customary word combinations

Every nation has its own unique ways of combining words, and so are the English and Chinese.

Example 72. Phase; heart-warming, tough-minded, East China, north and south, east and west, share the weal and woe, rain or shine, inconsistency of deeds with words, the iron and steel industry, quick of eye and deft of hand, food, clothing, shelter and transportation, you, he and I, back and forth, to and fro, every means possible.

译文:短语:暖人心的,意志坚定的,华东,东南西北,祸福与共,无论晴雨,言行不一,钢铁工业,手疾眼快,衣食住行,你我他,前前后后,来来去去,一切可能的手段。

Example 73. Connect the black pigtail with the dog-house.

译文:把黑色的猪尾巴系在狗窝上。(错误)

译文:将黑色的引出线接在高频高压电源屏蔽罩上。(正确)

Example 74. Outside it was pitch-dark and it was raining cats and dogs.

译文:外面一片漆黑,大雨倾盆。

(2) Different sequences in customary sentence arrangement

English sentences are generally bound by syntactical rules, and they are often arranged in order of importance, while Chinese sentences are more flexible, and usually arranged according to the sequence of time.

Example 75. Rocket research **has confirmed a strange fact** which had already been suspected: there is a "high-temperature belt" in the atmosphere, with its center roughly thirty miles above the ground.

译文:人们早就怀疑大气层中有一个“高温带”,其中心在距地面约 30 英里高的地方。利用火箭加以研究后,这一奇异的事实已得到了证实。

Example 76. **We had been dismayed** at home while reading of the natural calamities that followed one another for three years after we left China in 1959.

译文:我们于 1959 年离开了中国。此后,中国连续三年遭到自然灾害。当我们在国外读到这方面的消息时,心情颇为沉重。

(3) Adverbial clauses in a complex sentence

Adverbial clauses of condition, purpose, concession or cause, and so on in English may stand either before or after a principal clause, however, when translated into Chinese, they are normally placed before the principal clause.

Example 77. The government is determined to keep up the pressure **whatever the cost it will pay in the end.**

译文:不论最终将付出什么代价,政府都决心继续施加压力。

Example 78. **No matter how hard she tried**, she failed at last.

译文:不管她怎样努力,最后还是没有成功。

(4) “That-” clause used as a judgment or conclusion

“That” clause is usually adopted in expressing a judgment or conclusion. When a “that” clause which serves as the subject (of a sentence or a clause) is too long and consequently “it” is simultaneously used as the “formal subject”, restructuring is often called for, so as to conform to the Chinese usage.

Example 79. **It is not surprising that**, when humidity is low, the water evaporates rapidly from the fruit.

译文:在大气湿度低的情况下,水果里的水分蒸发就快,这是不足为奇的。

Example 80. **It is common practice that** electric wires are made from copper.

译文:电线是铜制的,这是常见的做法。

Example 81. A few years ago **it was thought unbelievable that** the computer could have so high speed as well so small volume.

译文:几年前人们还认为计算机能具有如此高的运行速度和如此小的体积是一件难以置信的事。

Lesson 2 Syntax in English-Chinese Translation

Due to extensive use of attributive clause, adverbial clause and a variety of phrases, English sentences often have longer complex structures. In addition, because of the differences between English and Chinese in the morphology, syntax, logical thinking and so on, it is difficult to understand and translate long sentences.

1. Translation techniques

The tree-like sentence structure of English is converted into the Chinese bamboo-like sentence structure; a long sentence is divided into pieces, so some necessary changes are needed to make them relatively independent and complete. A few relatively independent sentences are rearranged in accordance with Chinese custom, that is in the chronological order, then in the logical order from the conditions to the results.

Example 1. The newly described languages were often so strikingly different from the well studied languages of Europe and Southeast Asia that some scholars even accused Boas and Sapir of fabricating their data.

译文:这些新描述的语言与人们充分研究过的欧洲与东南亚的语言截然不同,以至于有些学者指责 Boas 与 Sapir 伪造资料。

Example 2. No such limitation is placed on an AC motor; here the only requirement is

relative motion, and since a stationary armature and a rotating field system have numerous advantages, this arrangement is standard practice for all synchronous motor rated above a few kilovolt-amperes.

译文:交流电机不受这种限制,唯一的要求是相对运动,而且由于固定电枢及旋转磁场系统具有很多优点,所以这种安排是所有容量在几千伏安以上的同步电机的标准做法。

Example 3. The resistance of any length of a conducting wire is easily measured by finding the potential difference in volts between its ends when a known current is following.

译文:已知导线中流过的电流,只要测出导线两端电位差的伏值,就能很容易地得出任何长度导线的电阻值。

(1) Attributive clause

When attributive clause is a short or restrictive attributive clause, in general, it will be removed to the front and become a pre-modifier. When the attributive clause is longer, you can restore the antecedent, so that the attributive clause will become an independent sentence. In many cases, in accordance with the logic, in fact, the attributive clause is acted as adverbial, which indicates condition or cause, then, it should be translated into an adverbial clause.

Example 4. Each of its collectors placed on the roof consists of a shallow fibreglass tray **that holds a number of copper tubes under a special glass cover.**

译文:每个安放在屋顶的收集器都由一个浅浅的玻璃纤维盘组成,上面是玻璃罩,罩下面有许多铜管。

Example 5. The failure to act could mean untold misery for future generations and perhaps environmental disaster **which threaten our very existence.**

译文:如果不采取行动,就意味着对我们的子孙后代带来难以形容的苦难和威胁我们生存的环境灾难。

Example 6. No one can be a great thinker **who does not realize that as a thinker it is his first duty to follow his intellect to whatever conclusions it may lead.**

译文:如果你没有意识到作为思想家首要的职责是听从自己的理性而无论结果如何,那么你就不能成为伟大的思想家。

Example 7. We must combat the medical-psychiatric model of human behavior **that seeks a drug for every psychological discomfort and under which a person who is not continuously calm, anxiety-free, happy and content is define as a medical patient.**

译文:我们必须对抗这种人类行为的医学生理分析模式,它为每个有心理疾病的人寻求药物。这种模式下,任何不能持续平静、无忧无虑、幸福和心理满足的人都被定义为医学上的病人。(显然这种模式是不合理的,应注意理解句意的重要性。)

Example 8. We are not conscious of the extent to **which work provides the psychological satisfaction that can make the difference between a full and an empty life.**

译文:我们不清楚在多大程度上工作能够给我们带来满足感,从而使感到生活是充实的。(对工作能不能带来满足感持怀疑态度。)

Example 9. This kind of two-electrodes tube consists of a tungsten filament, **which gives off electrons when it is heated**, and a plate **toward which the electrons migrate when the field is in the right direction**.

译文:这种二极管由一根钨丝和一个极板组成。钨丝受热时放出电子,当电场方向为正时,电子就向极板移动。

(2) Appositive clause

There is no appositive clause in Chinese, and therefore it is difficult to translate English appositive clause into Chinese without any change. The general approach is to change words like “belief” into the verb “believe”, and the appositive clause would become the object clause.

Example 10. This is due largely to the fact **that many writers think, not before, but as they write**.

译文:这主要是由于许多作者不是在写之前想,而是边写边想。

Example 11. Predictions **that the phenomenon of globalization will result in a lowering of human rights standards as the mobility of capital seeks out the markets least constrained by labor and human rights standards to maximize the highest returns** need not be the case.

译文:有人预测全球化现象将会导致人权标准降低,因为流动资本流向受劳工和标准束缚最小的市场以获取最大回报,但这种预测未必正确。

(3) Double negative

Typical translation: the affirmative structure

Example 12. **Until** humans use a spear to hunt game or a robot to produce machine parts, **neither** is much **more than** a solid mass of matter.

译文:如果人类不用矛去捕猎或者不用机器人去生产机器零件,那么它们只不过是一块废铁。

Example 13. **Few** technological developments have had a greater impact on our lives **than** the computer revolution.

译文:对我们生活影响最大的技术成果就是计算机革命。

Example 14. There are probably **no** questions we can think up that **can't** be answered, sooner or later, including even the matter of consciousness.

译文:凡是我們能够想到的问题迟早都会得到解决,甚至包括意识问题。

Example 15. There is **nothing** that can be said by mathematical symbols and relations which **cannot** also be said by words. The converse, however, is false. Much that can be and is said by words cannot successfully be put into equations, because it is nonsense.

译文:任何能用数学符号或数学关系式描述的都可以用语言描述,反过来是错的。很多能用语言表达的却不能转化为方程,因为这些语言是没有意义的。(讽刺语言中充满了废话。)

(4) Transferred negation

In English, “not” generally negates any part in its rear, that is termed negative transference.

Example 16. I did **not** have lunch **in the restaurant**.

译文:我在餐馆没吃午饭。(错误)

译文:我没在这家餐馆吃午饭。(正确,暗示我吃午饭了。)

Example 17. The computer is **not** valuable **because** it is expensive.

译文:计算机因为其价格贵而没有价值。(错误)

译文:计算机不是因为价格贵才有价值。(正确)

Example 18. The engine **didn't** stop **because** the fuel was finished.

译文:因为油用光了,所以引擎没停止工作。(错误)

译文:引擎停下了不是因为油用光了(正确,暗示可能是发动机坏了。)

Example 19. These cultural conventions are **no** less confining simply **because** they cannot be seen or touched.

译文:因为这些文化习俗看不见、摸不着,所以更多地束缚了人们。(错误)

译文:这些文化习俗不会仅仅因为看不见、摸不着而减小对人们的束缚。(正确)

Example 20. The importance of computer in the use of automatic control **can not** be **overestimated**.

译文:计算机在自动控制应用上的重要性不能被估计过高。(错误)

译文:对计算机在自动控制应用上的重要性怎么估计也不会过高。(正确)

(5) Inversion

Example 21. **Not until** these fundamental subjects were sufficiently advanced **was it** possible to solve the main problems of flight mechanics.

译文:只有当这些基础学科充分地发展完善之后,才能解决飞行力学的主要问题。

Example 22. **Into** this area of industry **came millions of Europeans** who made of it what become know as the “melting pot”, the fusion of people from many nations into Americans.

译文:数百万欧洲人涌入这一工业地区,这些人使它成为“大熔炉”,来自很多国家的人最后成为了美国人。

(6) Object postposition

In general, the object in English follows the verb closely. However, if the object is relatively long, the object complement or adverbial will be preposed and the object will be postposed, which will be difficult for us to understand. But the solution is pretty simple, just try to find out whether the verb is transitive. If it is a transitive verb, there must be an object. If the object doesn't follow the verb closely, try to locate it afterwards.

Example 23. Others do not try to widen their experience because they prefer the old and familiar, **seek** from their affairs **only further confirmation of the correctness of their own values**.

译文:其他人不想拓宽他们的经验,因为他们更喜欢旧的、熟悉的东西,以从中寻求进一步确认他们自己的价值观的正确性。

(7) Nominalization structure

This is a special kind of noun phrase. The important noun has the meaning of action, and therefore can be understood as a verb. Then the relationship between the following noun and the action is confirmed as either the recipient or sender of the action, and the other parts can be understood as adverbial.

Example 24. Coal represents **the chemical action of the sun** on the green plants thousands of years ago.

译文:煤代表的是几千年前**太阳对绿色植物的化学作用**。

Example 25. Coupled with the growing quantity of information is the development of technologies which enable **the storage and delivery of more information** with greater speed to more locations than has ever been possible before.

译文:伴随着信息量不断增加的是这些技术的发展,与过去相比,现在可以用更快的速度**储存和发送更多的信息**。

Example 26. The second aspect is the **application by** all members of society from the government official to the ordinary citizen, **of** the special methods of thought and action that scientists use in their work.

译文:问题的第二个方面是所有社会成员,从政府官员到普通百姓都去**运用**科学家们在工作中所用到的思想与行动方法。

Example 27. Continuous control readily lends itself to **an understanding of feedback control theory** using relatively uncomplicated mathematics.

译文:由于使用的数学原理相对简单,故连续控制有助于**理解反馈控制理论**。

(8) Partition structure

Two closely grammatically-related sentence elements are split by other sentence elements to form a partition structure.

Example 28. Ice particles **acquire a positive charge** bouncing off the falling hail.

译文:从冰雹弹开的冰粒获得了正电。

Example 29. The story has too many clues, **due to that it is written in stream of consciousness**, to be understood.

译文:这本小说是用意识流的手法写成的,因此线索太多,很难理解。

Example 30. In the early industrialized countries of Europe the process of industrialization **with all the far-reaching changes in social patterns that followed** was spread over nearly a century, whereas nowadays a developing nation may undergo the same process in a decade or so.

译文:在欧洲那些较早实现工业化的国家中,那种给后来的社会结构带来深远影响的工业化过程持续了100年,而如今一个发展中国家经历同样的过程很可能只用了10年左右的时间。

Example 31. Probably there is not one here who has not **in the course of the day** had occasion to set **in motion** a complex train of reasoning, of the very same kind, **though differing in degree**, as that which a scientific man goes through in tracing the causes of natural phenomena.

译文:很可能每个人每天都需要一系列的复杂思考,这种思考过程与科学家在探索自然现象的起因时所使用的思考过程相比,尽管程度不同,但性质是一样的。

(9) It clause

Example 32. **It doesn't** come as a surprise to you **to** realize that it makes no difference what you read or study if you can't remember it.

译文:如果你记不住的话,读什么和学什么就没有差别,这对你来说毫不惊奇。

Example 33. Barnes suggested that **it was** as proper **to** term the plant a water structure as **to** call a house composed mainly of brick a brick building.

译文: Barnes 建议这种植物适合称为水结构, 正如把主要由砖构成的房子称作砖混建筑一样。

Example 34. **It is** human, perhaps, **to** appreciate little that which we have and to long for that which we have not, but **it is** a great pity **that** in the world of light the gift of sight is used only as a mere convenience rather than as a means of adding fullness to life.

译文: 不珍惜拥有的而渴望没有的东西, 这是人之常情, 但很遗憾的是, 在光明的世界中, 被赠予的光明仅仅被用作一种便利而非充实人生的方式。

Example 35. **It is** entirely reasonable for auditors **to** believe that scientists who know exactly where they are going and how they will get there should not be distracted by the necessity of keeping one eye on the cash register while the other eye is on the microscope.

译文: 审计员认为既然科学家知道他们要达到什么目的, 也知道如何达到这个目标, 那么要求在搞好科研的同时要节省经费就不会使他们分心了, 这种要求是合理的。

(10) More ... than ... structure

Notice: This sentence pattern is not comparative, but a contrast relationship is expressed. It can be translated into “not ... but ...”. The emphasis is put on the content before “than”.

Example 36. The book seems to be **more** a dictionary **than** a grammar.

译文: 这本书与其说是语法书不如说是字典。

(11) No more ... than ... structure

Both of the words before and after “than” are negative, and it can be translated into neither ... nor ...

Example 37. I **no more** believe that ethics can be taught past the age of 16 **than** I believe in the teaching of so-called creative writing.

译文: 我不认为人在 16 岁以后还能够学习伦理道德, 就像我不认为人们能够学会创造性写作一样。

(12) not so much ... as ... structure

The sentence pattern denotes contrast that can be translated into “not ... but ...”. The emphasis is put on the content after “as”.

Example 38. The oceans do **not so much** divide the world **as** unite it.

译文: 与其说海洋把世界分割开, 还不如说海洋把世界连起来。

Example 39. Science moves forward, they say, **not so much** through the insights of great men of genius **as** because of more ordinary things like improved techniques and tools.

译文: 他们说科学向前发展不是由于伟大天才的真知灼见, 而是由于更普通的东西, 比如不断改进的技术和工具。

Example 40. It is the admission of ignorance that leads to progress **not so much** because the solving of a particular puzzle leads directly to a new piece of understanding **as** because the puzzle if it interests enough scientists leads to work.

译文:承认无知才能走向进步,这么说**不是**因为解决某个特定的谜题导致一种新的理解,而在于这个谜题能够吸引科学家促使人们去研究。

(13) Elliptical sentence

Example 41. The breakthroughs would create as much danger as **they would hope**.

译文:这些突破与他们所希望的一样会带来危险。(错误)

译文:这些突破在**带来希望**的同时也带来危险。(正确)

Example 42. A whale is no more a fish than **a horse is**.

译文:鲸鱼不是鱼也不是马。(错误)

译文:鲸鱼不是鱼就像**马也不是鱼**一样明显。(正确)

Example 43. Away from their profession, scientists are inherently no more honest or ethical than **other people**.

译文:除他们的专业之外,从本质上说,科学家是不诚实、不道德的,就像其他人不诚实、不道德一样。(错误)

译文:在他们的专业之外,从本质上说,科学家并不比**普通人更诚实、更有道德**。(正确)

Example 44. Certainly the humanist thinkers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, who are our ideological ancestors, thought that the goal of life was unfolding of a person's potentialities; what mattered to them was the person **who is much, not the one who has much or uses much**.

译文:18世纪和19世纪的人道主义思想家是我们意识形态上的先知,他们认为人生的目标是开发潜能。对他们来说,重要的是**他是什么样的人,而不是他拥有多少财富或使用了多少财富**。

2. Exercise

Quantum mechanics is a highly successful theory; it supplies methods for accurately calculating the results of diverse experiments, especially with minute particles. The predictions of quantum mechanics, however, give only the probability of an event, not a deterministic statement of whether or not the event will occur. Because of this probabilism, Einstein remained strongly dissatisfied with the theory throughout his life, though he did not maintain that quantum mechanics is wrong. Rather, he held that it is incomplete; in quantum mechanics the motion of a particle must be described in term of probabilities, he argued, only because some parameters that determine the motion have not been specified. If these hypothetical "hidden parameters" were known, a fully deterministic trajectory could be defined. Significantly, this hidden-parameter quantum theory leads to experimental predictions different from those of traditional quantum mechanics. Einstein's ideas have been tested by experiments performed since his death, and as most of these experiments support traditional quantum mechanics, Einstein's approach is almost certainly erroneous.

Echolocating bats emit sounds in patterns — characteristic of each species — that contain both frequency-modulated (FM) and constant-frequency (CF) signals. The broadband FM signals and the narrowband CF signals travel out to a target, reflect from it, and return to the hunting bat. In this process of transmission and reflection, the sounds are changed, and the

changes in the echoes enable the bat to perceive features of the target. The FM signals report information about target characteristics that modify the timing and the fine frequency structure, or spectrum, of echoes—for example, the target's size, shape, texture, surface structure, and direction in space. Because of their narrow band-width, CF signals portray only the target's presence and, in the case of some bat species, its motion relative to the bat's. Responding to changes in the CF echo's frequency, bats of some species correct in flight for the direction and velocity of their moving prey.