



The C-E Translation Study of *The Fatal Wounds* from the Perspective of E-C Contrastive Analysis

Lan Yang

School of Translation and Interpreting, Chengdu Institute Sichuan International Studies University, Chengdu 611844, Sichuan, China

Abstract: Based on E-C contrastive analysis, the distinctive characteristics between Chinese and English were fully recognized and the differences between them were concluded during the translation of the redundant, derivable and loose information in the source text (ST) with the corresponding translation methods so that the target text (TT) could be acquired which has the accordant habits of English expressions, meanwhile to maintain the characteristics of the suspense novel.

Keywords: E-C Contrastive Analysis; Suspense Novel; *The Fatal Wounds*

1. Introduction

The study is based on the practice of C-E Translation of *The Fatal Wounds* (*Episode 4, Ten Deadly Sins 3*), a Chinese modern suspense novel written by Zhi Zhu (also called Wang Liwei in Chinese). The modern suspense novel has several mainly characteristics including suspense, rigorous logic, the clear and fluent narrative rhythm, mystery, tense and romantic plots, storytelling, knowledgeability, entertainment, and information which refers to the details in a sentence or a paragraph.

According to the enormous differences between Chinese and English which belong to two different language systems, the author, by means of the C-E translation of the suspense novel, concluded the discrepancies between Chinese and English in the translation of the redundant, derivable and loose information in the ST, and aligned the TT with the habits of English expressions through some specific translation methods under the guidance of E-C contrastive analysis, such as simplification, inversion, word-order adjustment, etc.

2. Case study under the guidance of E-C contrastive analysis

2.1 Redundant information

Nominalization, compared with verbalization in dynamic Chinese, is one of the characteristics of static English language. This difference was explained by R. Quirk (1972: 48). Quantities of verbs which have the similar or same meaning in the ST need to be removed as the redundant information in the TT.

The method of abstract diction, differing from the concrete expression in Chinese, is in a large amount in English. E. Gowers (1987: 79) expressed this phenomenon by quoting it from G. M. Young. The category words, such as problem, state, situation, emotion and others in Chinese to make the text more concrete and fluent, have no practical meaning and

About the author:

Lan Yang (Feb. 8th, 1995); Female; The Tibetan from Maerkang City of Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture; University English teacher; Master Degree; English translation studies (research direction); School of Translation and Interpreting, Chengdu Institute Sichuan International Studies University, Dujiangyan, Chengdu City, Sichuan Province, 611844.

Copyright © 2021 Lan Yang
doi: 10.18282/le.v10i3.12

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

cause the redundancy in English, so eliminating them is to accord with the habits of English expressions and characteristics of English language^[1].

2.1.1 Removal of verbs

(1) TT: First version: Her stiff and upright body tilted to the right with a leaning gesture.

Second version: Her stiff and upright body tilted to the right.

(2) TT: First version: There was a section of intestine on a piece of fan blade where the stomach was hanging at the bottom, and with its steady movement, they were going around in a circle and swinging around to pound the curtain without a break.

Second version: they were going around in a circle to pound the curtain without a break.

In (1), the information “with a leaning gesture” can be inferred and derived from the information “tilted to the right”, so the former belongs to the redundant information and the translator removed it in the second version. In (2), the information “swing round” was removed in translation, because it could be inferred from “hanging”, “going around in a circle”, and “pound” and its meaning was the same as the combination between the meanings of “going around in a circle” and “pound”.

2.1.2 Elimination of category words

(3) TT: First version: “There remains no situation of robbery or sexual assault,” Prof. Liang analyzed.

Second version: “There remains no robbery or sexual assault,” Prof. Liang analyzed.

(4) TT: First version: “..... so as to remedy the problem of insufficiency of the police force.....”

Second version: “..... so as to remedy the insufficiency of the police force.....”

The two category words in ST were been translated in the first versions into “situation” “problem”, all of which here have no practical meaning in TT, so the translator eliminated these redundant information and translated the sentences into English with the abstract expressions “robbery or sexual assault” and “insufficiency” to contain their meanings. The translation here shows the TT is intact in meaning, grammar and modality. In line with this discrepancy, the TT accorded with the habits of English expressions and renders the readers a clear and concise text^[2].

2.2 Derivable information

The derivable information means based on the fact, data and other relevance that have been grasped, the new information can be derived step by step by causation, specific relationship and others.

A dialogue, the common narrative pattern in suspense novels, have some clues and the basic process and the speakers can be easily derived by the readers, especially in some dialogues which merely have two speakers, which belongs to the derivable information. H.W. Flower and F.G. Fowler (1951: 218) described that “The repetition, that is to say, is more or less abnormal.....” Compared with repetition in Chinese, English tends to avoid it possibly except some purposes of emphasis and rhetorical devices.

Chinese generally is the analytic language, while English the synthetic one, which applies the morphological changes to express grammar. The word order is flexible in English, while fixed in Chinese. The translation method of inversion is frequently leveraged to express grammar in English and to acquire the TT which accords with the habits of English expressions. H. Fowler (1965: 297) divided the English inversion into nine categories including interrogative, imperative, exclamatory, hypothetical, balance, link, signpost, negative, and metrical inversions^[3].

2.2.1 Simplification of dialogues

(5) TT: First version: On the contrary, Hua Long questioned him where he had being in at seven to eleven pm. He said, “I was staying at home.” Hua Long asked, “Who can prove?” He answered, “I live alone here without my wife and children.”

Second version: “I was staying at home.” “Who can prove?” “I live alone here without my wife and children.”

There are several crucial points about the dialogue. Firstly, the dialogue merely contains two speakers: Hua Long who is a member of the special-case team and the fat chef who is the suspect. Secondly, the dialogue here is the ques-

tion-and-answer mode which corresponds to the identities of two speakers. Thirdly, in light of the normal logic reasoning, the police asks questions and the suspect answers them. From the analysis above, the readers can derive easily the information “he said” and “Hua Long asked”.

2.2.2 Inversion

(6) TT: First version: “..... and then shouted at the other waiters to catch two living geese from the back yard, the filthy bodies of which have not been cleaned up yet, and they directly squeezed their hands into those bottoms and ripped out intestines which were flung out to the ground with fresh blood and excrement. A plate of goose intestines with blood streaks was placed on the dining table for a while.”

Second version: “..... In a little while, here came a plate of goose intestines with blood streaks.”

(7) TT: First version: her pants had been undressed to the knees and there was something like a rope behind her hip Another startling case happened!

Second version: Here came another startling case!

In (6), the plentiful verbs in ST were translated into “shout”, “clean”, “squeeze”, “rip put”, “fling out”, etc. demonstrating a complete process of making the dish “Sheng Kou E Chang”. Besides, in line with its process and the logic reasoning, the dish will be put on the table after the waiter finishes the action of digging out goose intestines, so the location information “on the dining table” belongs to the derivable information. The translator, in view of the coherence of English language and the cohesion of the plot here, used the adverb “here” to substitute “on the dining table” and applied the translation method of inversion to translate the TT. In (8), it obeyed the logical order to achieve link inversion., corresponding to the habits of English expressions and its characteristics^[4].

2.3 Loose information

Chinese, the semantic language, draws on parataxis, while English, the grammatical one, hypotaxis and its grammar and logic are shown by various cohesive ties among words and clauses. A sentence in Chinese generally is the combination between full sentences and minor sentences, which formulates loose grammar structures and the comprehensions of them lie in the context, meaning, word order, etc. English focuses on the overt cohesion to acquire the complete structure.

2.3.1 Word-order adjustment

(8) TT: First version: “Thus I recommend that the local police should mobilize the masses. They remedy the insufficiency of the police force. They build briskly the local Crime Watch. They recruit voluntary patrols and elevate the crowd’s vigilance and safety awareness. They are to nip in the bud.”

Second version: “..... to build briskly the local Crime Watch and recruit voluntary patrols so as to remedy the insufficiency of the police force and elevate the crowd’s vigilance and safety awareness, all of which are to nip in the bud.”

The full sentence In ST consists of six minor sentences, most of which are incomplete subject-predicate structures or topic constructions and no explicit cohesion among them in the first version. For rigidity and hypotaxis, the author adjusted the loose information in the logic and narrative order from results to reasons, then translating the ST with the order in the second version to obey the clearly fluent logic and narrative rhythm and maintain the habits of English expressions^[5].

2.3.2 Overt cohesion

(9) TT: First version: “Who can come here? I will sharpen my knife. I will wait.”

Second version: “No matter who dares to come, I will wait with my sharpened knife.”

The ST consists of three clauses without any cohesive ties to form a loose structure, which can be seen from the first version. During the C-E translation, the sentence with a full structure should be considered firstly, according to which the first clause can be looked on as the subordinate clause. The author selected the third one as the main clause and leveraged the conjunctive pronoun “no matter who” to link the first with the third to form an adverbial clause of concession. Meanwhile, the simple preposition “with” was applied to connect the second with the main clause to do the

accompany adverbial.

3. Conclusion

The C-E translation of the redundant, derivable and loose information in the ST accorded with the habits of English expressions and keep the characteristics of suspense novel under the guidance of E-C contrastive analysis. There is a keen hope that more excellent Chinese modern suspense novels can be output to the world for cultural exchange and translation study.

References

1. Gowers E. The complete plain words. England: Penguin Books Ltd.; 1987.
2. Flower H. A dictionary of modern English usage. London: Oxford University Press; 1965.
3. Flower HW, Fowler FG. The King's English. 3rd ed. London: Oxford University Press; 1951.
4. Lian S. Contrastive studies of English and Chinese. Beijing: Higher Education Press; 2010.
5. Quirk R, Greenbaum S, Leech G, *et al.* A grammar of contemporary English. 1972.