

"Journalistic English: Reading and Translating" 研讀心得

英文科 黃珮芬老師

書 摘

Teacher	Pei-Feng Huang (黃珮芬)
Book	Journalistic English: Reading and Translating
Editor	Dr. Liao, Bo-Sen
Publisher	Chong-Wen
Publishing Date	2007/08/25
Paperback	500
Price	350
Content Introduction	<p>The book, <i>Journalistic Newspaper: Reading and Translating</i>, offers us plenty of exercises, relating to the features of English news writing terms, including Neologisms, Set Expressions, Idioms, Political Correctness/Politically Correct, Expanded Simple Sentences, Reduced Adverbial Clauses, Direct and Indirect Quotations. There are also more useful English-Chinese Newspaper Terms for readers. The editor spends around half a year working on the book to share his experience with readers.</p>

Abstract

The features of Journalistic English: Reading and Translating depend on the authentic examples which combine the concept of news report and language analysis. The inner characteristics and the chapter structure are illustrated to help readers be able to understand the contents of English News. Through the surface of remarks in the newspapers and reports, readers can not only realize more about the basic principles and the writing skills but also gain more practice experiences.

No matter on the websites, in the newspapers or magazines, we can find out many materials about English news everywhere. However, if we want to be good at reading English news, all we have to do is to figure out the contents effectively and continue practicing reading them. The book, Journalistic Newspaper: Reading and Translating, offers us plenty of exercises, relating to the features of English news writing terms, including Neologisms, Set Expressions, Idioms, Political Correctness/Politically Correct, Expanded Simple Sentences, Reduced Adverbial Clauses, Direct and Indirect Quotations. There are also more useful English-Chinese Newspaper Terms for readers. The editor spends around half a year working on the book to share his experience with readers.

Journalistic English : Reading

I. News Summary

The contents in the news are mostly divided into four parts, straight news, features, editorials and columns.

II. English News Summary

On the basis of the viewpoints of English teaching, reading English news can greatly promote ones' English abilities, because its authentic language data. It' s different for non-native speakers of English. Moreover, English news reports things that happened around us so that readers can have more motivation to understand with their background knowledge.

III. News On-line throughout the world

To get the taste of the advantages of reading English news, readers can surf the net online. Through the online news, readers can get more

learning processes. The news is multiple which comes from all over the world. The news in the most countries has to be broadcast in English to the world.

IV. Strategy of Reading English News

First, reading several English news articles per week in areas in which you are interested. To learn to read English news well, all readers have to do is persevere in reading it. Second, preparing yourself for the content by reading related articles in Chinese. Don't forget to keep reading Chinese news to increase the skills in reading English news. Third, skimming for the main points, including the layout of the articles, headlines, introduction, texts, photos and graphs, so that readers can understand the main points. But if readers are not interested in the context, they can choose another one to read. Fourth, guessing the meaning of words from the context. Readers don't have to feel confused while reading the vocabulary. To guess its meaning can also work. Fifth, using a dictionary to look up difficult words and keeping a notebook for news vocabulary and expressions. Finally, making a written summary or translation to strengthen readers' memory, and this is to make a conclusion to the English news.

V. Styles of the remarks on English News - Expanded Simple Sentences, Reduced Adverbial Clauses, Direct and Indirect Quotations, and Active Voice

Owing to the limitation of the layout in the English news, editors would use some new method, derivations, Compound words, Acronyms, and abbreviations, to edit the articles. That is to use the neologisms to enrich the News words and sentences. However, it sometimes causes trouble for the non-native speakers. On the contrary, "Set expression" is also common writing method in English News. It's established by usage. For readers, it's easier to understand and receive the information. Metaphor is also the popular style in English News. Writers use the specific writing method instead of abstract. Readers don't read its literal meaning of the news; they have to understand its intended meaning by the association. Idioms and proverbs can be read in some paragraphs such as alpha and omega, Good Samaritan, after one's own heart or Achilles' heel. Most come from the sentences in Bible and the fable story. Additionally, in order not to offend some special politicians, some political correctness/politically correct phrase would be used in English news. For instance, we replace African American or Afro American to Negro or nigger.

VI. Chapter Structures of English News - Headlines, Leads, and The Body. Headline represents the soul in every news. Generally speaking, the more

important the news is, the more precise and shorter sentences they are. Leads are the beginning of a news report. The content is usually very short or even one sentence. Basically, there are hard-news leads and soft leads in leads.

Different from the leads, the body means to present events in detail.

Journalistic English : Translating

I. Translating Summary

The linguist, Catford, regards translating as the replacement of textual material in one language by equivalent material in another language. The American translator Nida and Taber define the translating as reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source-language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style.

II. English News Translating Summary

1. Conscientious, careful and fast are the necessary attitude to deal with the news translation.
2. Being easy and brief to be read. The style of news writing is for general public; therefore, the content should be general English.
3. Being precise and objective are also vital for English news.

III. News Words Translating

1. Beckham, Bill Gates, Karaoke and meter are the examples of transliterating words by their sound.
2. Free translation - anorexia, asthma, blue-chip stock and computer.
3. A word-for-word translation - agenda setting, artificial intelligence and mad cow disease.
4. Translating by both sound and meaning of words - AIDS, beer, call-in and hacker.
5. Translating by thing' s figure or its specific appearance - amphitheater, bell bottoms, crossroad and T shirt.

IV. News Sentences Translating

1. Translating sentences in turn, which means the writers don' t have to consider sentences structure.

Ex. Some also argue that China' s GDP is underestimated and its investment rate exaggerated.

有些人認為中國的國內生產總值被低估，且其投資率被誇大。

2. Different from the first point is counter translation.

Ex. I sang loudly in my room this morning.

今天早上我在房間裡大聲唱歌。

3. Sometimes, in order to convey messages, writers have to increase some words which don't exist in the sentences according to the text.

Ex. Newspapers are expected to supply their content free on the Web.
(我們期待) 報紙在網路上提供免費的新聞。

4. Different from the third point is to omit some words without translating.

Ex. The batteries are not only environmentally friendly but they're also cheap.

這些電池不僅環保，(這些電池) 也很便宜。

5. Writers use the adaptation methodology to translate sentences because the huge differences between two cultures so that the articles can be more fluent read with obstacles.

Ex. The face of the young American worker is changing, and it's increasingly decorated with ink and metal.

美國年輕工作者的面貌正在改變，越來越多人以刺青和穿洞來裝扮自己。

6. Because the differences of sentence structure between Chinese and English, the frequency of using the syntactical functions and morphological features is also different. For instance, in Chinese, we use one or more verbs when we talk; however, in English, we can only use one verb.

Ex. East Asia is characterized by great cultural, ethnic and political diversity, unresolved conflicts and different visions of the future.

東亞的特點在於其文化、種族和政治的多元，未解的紛爭與未來不同的遠景。

7. To get readers understand the meanings of the articles, to translate in the opposite way is necessary.

Ex. Few things are easier than telling a lie, and few things are harder than spotting one when it's told to us.

沒有比說謊更容易的事了，但也沒有比拆穿別人謊言更困難的事。

8. To connect the text and to get readers realize the sentences easily, the passive form is often used.

Ex. Scores of villagers, even elderly ones, were taken away by police after being beaten.

許多村民，甚至連老人在內都遭警察毆打後給帶走了。

9. In Chinese, we put the modifier in front of some words like nouns but in English, we are able to set it either in front of the noun

or backwards.

Ex. Major events such as advancing from nursery to primary school or parents getting a divorce, for example, can cause children stress.
舉例而言，從托兒所升到小學或父母離婚等重大事件都會帶給兒童壓力。

After discussing various translation methods, what we want to tell is there will not be only one so-called normal version to translate sentences.

V. News Paragraph Translating

Now we talk about the paragraph after getting well familiar with the basic word phrases and sentence translations of news. Sometimes readers can't understand the meaning of the sentence structure precisely because lacking the help of text. Hence, while translating the paragraphs and the chapters of the news, writers should not only lay stress on the meaning of individual sentence but on the coherence of the contents and cohesion of the word structures.

VI. Useful English-Chinese Newspaper Terms

In the last chapter, there are useful English-Chinese newspaper terms for readers to consult. They are Central Government Structure of Taiwan, International Organizations, Politics, Economics & Business, Securities & Foreign Exchange, Science & Environment Protection, Technology, Medicine, Military Affairs, Society & Culture, Law, Education, Mass Media & Entertainment and Sports.

Reference

- * Bartel, J. C. (1994). *The Metropolitan Daily News: Understanding American Newspaper*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.
- * Brooks, B. S., Kennedy, G., Moen, D. R., & Ranly, D. (2005). *News reporting and Writing* (8th ed.). New York: St. Martin's Press.
- * Chu, H. -C. (1992). *How to Read an English Newspaper* (2nd ed). Taipei: Crane.
- * Ferry, T. (2006). *Your Guide to English News Language*. Taipei: Cosmos.
- * Fredrickson, T., & Wedel, P. F. (1984). *English by Newspaper*. Boston: Heinle & Heinle.
- * Grundy, P. (2004) *Newspapers*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- * Harkrider, J. (1997). *Getting Started in Journalism* (3rd ed.). Columbus,

OH: McGraw-Hill.

- * Hsu, C. -K. (1981). Ways to Journalistic English Reading (3rd ed.). Taipei: Crane.
 - * Mascull, B. (1995). Key Words in the Media. London: HarperCollins.
 - * Reah, D. (1998). The Language of Newspaper. London: Routledge.
 - * Rich, C. (1994). Writing and Reporting News: A Coaching Method. Belmont, CA: International Thomson Publishing.
- Sanderson, P. (2002). Using Newspapers in the Classroom. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.