

论我国高校英文版网页的翻译失误

韩孟奇

(华北水利水电学院 外语系, 河南 郑州 450011)

[摘要]我国高校英文版网页还普遍存在问题,如:文化翻译失误、语言性翻译失误等,在外宣工作中影响了效果甚至自身形象,旨在分析这些翻译失误,以促使目前的状况得以改善。

[关键词]翻译失误;网页;高校

[中图分类号] H315.9 **[文献标识码]** A **[文章编号]** 1673-9477(2008)01-0115-03

随着高等教育的高速发展,我国高校与国外的交流日益增多,并出现了一批在国际上有很高知名度的大学。在对外交流方面,网络的作用越来越受到人们的重视。作为对外宣传的窗口,高校网页正在发挥着重要作用。然而,部分高校的英文版网页(学校概况部分)却不尽人意,在一定程度上影响了宣传效果,甚至自身形象。本文旨在分析这些高校英文版网页中存在的翻译失误,以促使目前的网页状况得以改善,并在此求教于前辈和同行。

英文版网页的主要受者是国外学者、留学生及有意和我国高校合作的国外企业界人士等。他们浏览高校网页的目的是什么呢?网页是按照中文“忠实”地翻译过去还是按照英文习惯重新创作?这是一个需要弄清楚的问题。试想一下,我们浏览高校网页无非是想了解对方的师资力量、专业设置、基础设施、科研情况、学校文化、招生情况等。这就要求英文网页照顾到受众群体,要看对象,不能不分青红皂白地照单全译。虽然高校英文网页的产生过程各不相同,但其信息来源无疑出自中文版网页,因此,我们可以将英文版网页看作是中文版的英译本。请看清华大学中、英文版网页中的一段文字:

清华大学主体所在地——清华园,地处北京西北部名胜风景园林区,明朝时为一私家花园,清朝康熙年间成为圆明园一部分,称熙春园,道光年间分为熙春园和近春园,咸丰年间改名为清华园。

Situated on several former royal gardens of the Qing Dynasty, surrounded by a few historical sites in northwest Beijing, is the campus of Tsinghua University. The garden-like landscape, with the Wanquan River meandering through, has inspired and motivated generations of students. (见清华大学网页)

在这段文字里,“康熙”、“道光”、“咸丰”、“圆明园”、“熙春园”、“近春园”等在英文网页里都找不到。而以“several former royal gardens of the Qing Dynasty”巧妙地表现出来。如果“忠实”地翻译过来,不仅要加注释,而且会给国外不了解中国历史的读者带来困惑。因此,外宣英译要以目的语为归宿,使其受者在摄取信息的过程中不遇到障碍。按照英国当代翻译理论家纽马克(Newmark)和德国翻译理论家诺伊贝特(Neubert)的观点,外宣翻译主要以或完全以目的语为重点,即译文要在表达方式、格式措词等方面符合该文体在译入语的习惯(袁晓宁,2005:75-78)。笔者仔细阅读了国内多所高校(包括国家重点大学和普通院校)的网页,发现的主要问题如下:

一、文化性翻译失误

所谓文化性翻译失误是指译文与源语文化规范和惯例相冲突之处(范勇,2005:70-72)。国内不少大学中文网站的学校简介中有政治色彩浓厚的语言,这些语言很可能和受者的信仰、价值观念相抵触,影响了译文的效果。如:HUFE aims to strengthen the party development, ideological and political education, civilization development(河南财经学院网站)。对这种意识形态极强的内容应进行改写或略去不译。否则可能会引起受者的不解甚至反感。还有些译文对原文特有的文化现象未加说明。例如:HUFE carries out the “Soul Project”, putting emphasis on the “Basic Project”(河南财经学院网站)。译者对“Soul Project”和“Basic Project”未加任何注释,给受者造成理解困难。国际著名的语言学家 Eugene A. Nida 曾指出,“跨文化交际中的一个主要难题是:在很多情况下共享信息的数量和性质存在巨大差异。”在翻译过程中,译者要用注释的方法,对译文中所缺少的共享信息和背景知识加以补充说明,否则译文受者就无法理解原文中特有的文化现象。

二、语言性翻译失误

1. 词义误解 选词错误在网页错误中占的比例最大,究其原因,不外乎对所选的词缺乏了解,不知道这些词应该在什么场合使用,照搬英汉词典的释义而产生误解等。例如:(1) The university has rolling physical features with the scenic Luojia Hill in it and the beautiful East Lake by its side, seeming in picturesque disorder(武汉大学网站)。Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English对disorder的释义为: lack of order; confusion(无秩序,混乱)。如:The house was in (a state of) disorder because of the young children(屋子被孩子弄得乱七八糟)。由此看来,disorder一词用于以上语境显然不合适。笔者改为: With the scenic Luojia hill in it and the beautiful East Lake by its side, it is a campus of scenic contrast. (2) The above works have been awarded many prizes and honorary titles from the Propaganda Department(河南财经学院网站)。Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English对propaganda的释义为: false or partly false information used by a government or political party to make people agree with them. Propaganda. 通常用于贬义,尤指(政府或政党为了影响民意而进行的虚假或

部分虚假的)宣传,如 pure Fascist propaganda 纯粹的法西斯宣传。国内不少场所也把宣传部译成 Propaganda Department, 在外宣中会造成不良影响。其实,我们所说的宣传在英语中没有对等的词汇,比较接近的词汇是 publicity, 实际上,许多单位、团体的宣传部只是负责公共关系,所以还不如译为公共关系部更容易为 native speakers 所接受。(3) Since 1963 the university has been subjected to the management of National Mechanical Ministry(湖南大学网站)。Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English 对 subject to 的释义为:(常用被动语态)to force someone or something to experience something very unpleasant or difficult, especially for a long time(尤指长时间地)使遭受,使经历,使蒙受。上句的原文为“1963年起隶属国家机械工业部”,用 under the administration of National Mechanical Ministry 较合适。笔者改为:Since 1963 the university has been under the administration of National Mechanical Ministry since 1963.

2. 机械对应 Eugene A. Nida 还指出:“一个词不会有一层意思,而有多层意思。在不同的语言中,相应词的语义域从不完全相同,因此要在译语中选用正确的词语来译原文,主要必须考虑上下文一致,即不应总是要求译文和原文字字对等”。(于建平 2001:32-34)我国另一位资深翻译权威王弄笙先生也认为:从事外事翻译,要“吃透中文的精神,以意为重,摆脱中文字面的束缚,按照英文的习惯,表达原文的内涵”,“同时又要使译文通顺易懂”(王弄笙 2002:23-28)。一些高校英文网页句子中的选词深受汉语思维习惯的影响,没有照顾到目的语的表达习惯,造成译文和原文逐字对应,给受者造成理解困难。以下是常见的错误。(1) The “Five Unties” — the unity of teaching plan, the unity of syllabus, the unity of making teaching materials, the unity of conducting classes, the unity of examinations is the linking tie... (河北广播电视大学网站)。可以看出,原文中有“五个统一”,目的语按照汉语的语序对应翻译,痕迹明显,不符和英语表达习惯。(2) Under its educational philosophy of “Art to regulate the country, science to strengthen the country and economy to richen the country”(南开大学网站)。原文是:“珍视传统‘文以治国、理以强国、商以富国’的办学理念”,目的语按照汉语语序,字字对等翻译,有违英文表达法。笔者改为:Under the educational philosophy of “to run the country by arts, to strengthen the country by science and to make the country rich by commerce.”。(3) Wuhan university has achieved the — world’s — attention — attracting achievements... (武汉大学网站)。不难看出,原文是想表达“取得了举世瞩目的成就”,“举世瞩目”的译文欠妥,有汉式英语之嫌。建议把例句改为:... the university has made great achievements well known both at home and abroad. 中文宣传材料常有大量的形容词语,起渲染烘托作用,并无多少实用信息。假如将这些形容词语如实照译,译文必定夸张、可笑。在翻译外宣材料时,译者不应受这类形容词语的干扰,而应根据自己的经验和判断,对原文的信息进行整理,只需翻译那些对译文读者有用的信息。(傅似逸,2001:37-39)因此,对“取得了举世瞩目的成就”的翻译要作降调处理。

3. 搭配不当 语言的运用是“约定俗成”的,大家都

要遵守语言的习惯用法。搭配用法是语言的习惯用法之一,语言都带有自己民族的显著特点,作为语言现象之一的词语搭配自然能够体现出一个民族的语言文化特征,在词的搭配习惯方面也往往有差异。一些大学网页中的译文深受汉语词语搭配的影响,套用汉语的思维方式,采用英汉语际间的逐词翻译,从而出现搭配异常现象。上述例句 Wuhan university has achieved the — world’s — attention — attracting achievements 中的 achieved... achievements 属搭配不当,造成语义重复。可与 achievements 搭配的词有 make, win, obtain 等。

4. 句子重复累赘,行文拖沓,不地道

英汉两种语言表达风格各异,英文忌重复,如果在一句话里需要重复某个词语,则用代词替代,或以其它手段来避免重复。汉语不怕重复,连续使用某个词语是常见的事,汉语也用代词,但不如英语用的多。所以汉译英时要千方百计避免重复,多用代称(张锦龙 2004:59)请看如下句子:(1) The university also made its way to attract finance and investments for the development of the university. The university, with long history and natural scenery, had been the visited by many leaders of the country(湖南大学网站)。汉语可对某一个内容用相同的词反复说明,而这种重复在英语中是无法接受的,这就要求译者务必反复推敲论证直至译文符合英语表达习惯。以上例句中,university 一词多次重复,是英文表达之大忌,后两个 university 应以代词取代。(2) RTVU runs its school facing the local areas, facing the grass — roots level, facing the rural areas, facing the remote places and minority regions(河北广播电视大学网站)。译文语法基本正确,但不地道,主要因为没有摆脱原文以“面向”引导的四个排比结构的束缚。在中文语篇中,并列排比“面向当地、面向基层、面向农村、面向边远少数民族地区”无可非议,但译文若按照汉语语序逐词翻译就使译文变成了中式英语。笔者改为:RTVU runs its school geared to the needs of local areas, grass — roots units, rural areas, remote places and minority regions.

5. 句子结构问题

汉语和英语分属汉藏语系和印欧语系,在句子结构上有很大区别。英语句子结构严谨,层层连接,有人把英语句子结构比喻为“葡萄型”结构,虽然主干较短,但果实累累,是一种重在“形合”的语言。汉语句子结构较松散,但结构明快,是一种重在“意合”的语言,有人把这种结构比喻为“竹节型”结构。因此,在两种语言转换时,就须对句子结构作以调整,以适应各自的表达习惯。例如:Its campus is wooded and green, and has fragrant flowers everywhere all the year round, the buildings are in special architectural styles, magnificent and mansion — looking(武汉大学网站)。汉语句子的信息容量没有语法形式上的限制,弹性很大,一句接着一句,恰似流水。所以,有人称汉语的句子为流水句,每个分句之间多用逗号隔开,以表示停顿。而英语以一个主谓结构为一个句子单位。一个主谓结构构成的句子,无论其长短,后面都用句号表示句子的完结。(轩治峰 2003:86-88)例句中第二个句子和第三个句子之间缺少连接词,单句之间都是逗号连接,这是汉语单句之间的连接习惯。笔者改为:With trees and flowers everywhere all the year round, the campus looks green and beautiful. Besides, the buildings are magnificent in the style of traditional Chinese

architecture.

三、其他错误

1. 度量衡错误 不少高校的网页在介绍学校的占地面积时都用“亩”这个单位,还没跟国际接轨。如:The total floor space of buildings accounts for 360,000 square meters and the whole coverage of campus is around 700 mu(中国传媒大学网站)。其实,公制单位早已被世界上大多数国家采用。现通行的面积单位是公顷或平方米(hectare or square meter)

2. 外表错误 相当一部分大学的网页制作不够细心,打字、拼写、排版、标点符号等错误随处可见。这些外表错误看上去虽不起眼,但会影响读者对译文的认同感。如:(1) Both campuses have beautiful settings With flowers, trees and grass lawns in them(中州大学网站),打字问题造成大小写错误。(2) The University publishes some important academic journals, such as “Journal of the University of Science and Technology”, “Fire Science”, “Journal of Low Temperature Physics”, “Journal of Chemical Physics”, “Experimental Mechanics”, and “Education and Modernization”(中国科技大学网站),书名或杂志名不应加引号,应将引号删除并将书名或杂志名改为斜体字即可。(3) In addition to the maintask of providing college — degree education, ...also offerspostgraduate degree courses(湛江海洋大学网站),排版错误,一些词与词之间的空格漏掉。(4) It currently has a total teaching and administrative staqff

of 1,400(首都工商大学网站),staff 拼写错误。

高校英文版网页在对外宣传工作中起着十分重要的作用,它是向国外学者、留学生及有意和我国高校合作的国外企业界人士展现自我形象的重要窗口。为避免以上失误,笔者建议网页译者要有严肃认真的态度,对把握不大的选词、表达法及句子,要多方查证或请专家、本族语者校对。英文网页的创作最好集体进行,集思广益,取长补短,力争把错误减少到最低限度。

[参考文献]

- [1] Eugene A. Nida Language and Culture — Contexts in Translating [M]. Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press, 2001.
- [2] 范勇. 目的论观照下的翻译失误[J]. 解放军外国语学院学报, 2005, (1): 70—72.
- [3] 傅似逸. 试论对外宣传材料英译“以语篇为中心”的原则[J]. 外语与外语教学, 2001, (11): 37—39.
- [4] 贾文波. 应用翻译功能论中国对外翻译出版公司[M]. 2004.
- [5] 王弄笙. 近年来汉英翻译中出现的一些新问题[J]. 中国翻译, 2002, (1): 23—28.
- [6] 袁晓宁. 外宣英译的策略及其理据[J]. 中国翻译, 2005(1): 75—78.
- [7] 轩治峰. 英汉语句修辞模式差异与汉式英语[J]. 辽宁师范大学学报 2003, (11): 86—88.
- [8] 于建平. 科技论文汉译英中若干问题分析[J]. 中国翻译, 2001, (1): 32—34.
- [9] 张锦龙. 谈中式英语多余词、重复词[J]. 福建师范大学福清分校学报, 2004, (9): 58—60.

[责任编辑:陶爱新]

On the translation mistakes in English web pages of institutions of higher learning

HAN Meng — qi

(North China Institute of Water Conservancy & Hydropower, Zhengzhou 450011, China)

Abstract: Cultural translation errors, linguistic errors and so on are very common in the English version of the web profiles of institutions of higher learning in China, and this has had negative effects on their publicity and even their images. The emphasis of the paper is on an in — depth analysis of the errors in these English web profiles so that an urgent improvement can be made accordingly.

Key words: translation mistakes; web pages; institutions of higher learning

(上接第 107 页)

Create a new world of campus culture by prescribing remedies according to its existing problems

ZHI Jie¹, NIU Guang — min²

(1. The Education Bureau of Handan, Handan 056004, China;

2. College of Urban Construction, Hebei University of Engineering, Handan 056038, China)

Abstract: Campus culture plays an important part in the all — round development of students. Making efforts to cultivate campus culture of vocational schools derforms an unmatched and irreplaceable function of realizing its educatlongoals, promoting quality education, developing students' creativity and dractical skills. This thesis is dedicated to a valuable approach to the construction of campus culture of vocational schools by finding out the exlstng problems, prescribing remedies for it in order to promote its development.

Key words: campus culture; present situation and problems; measures for improving