

A Brief Analysis of Stylistic Features and Chinese Translation of News English

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Abstract: *The emergence and rise of each specific stylistic type are often matched with its corresponding functions and specific situations. According to the theory of system function, situational context is mainly divided into three types: discourse scope, discourse tone and discourse mode. Discourse content is mainly a category of research content form, which generally covers three aspects: news English, scientific and technological English and legal English. With the rapid development of network technology, both paper books and English news media on the Internet can be seen everywhere. Readers can browse and read a large amount of news English materials through official websites, periodicals, magazines, WeChat official accounts and so on. In the process of reading, the target language readers will inevitably encounter a variety of difficulties and obstacles. Therefore, as a translator, we need to further understand and master the functions, features and Chinese translation characteristics of various stylistic types in order to help readers absorb knowledge and broaden their horizons. Next, based on the functional equivalence theory proposed by Eugene A. Nida, this paper will analyze the stylistic features of news English on websites and official accounts from the three dimensions of phase, vocabulary and syntax, and further understand the Chinese translation characteristics of this type of text. It is hoped that this article can help people to have a deeper understanding of the stylistic features of news English, and to read and analyze the original text.*

Keywords: *News English; Functional Equivalence Theory; Stylistic Features*

1. Introduction

Nowadays, we are in an era of rapid development of network information. Therefore, people can stay at home by browsing the official website of News English, the tweets of official accounts, the reports of TV platforms, reading the layout materials in newspapers, the ways and channels of advertising, and so on. You can grasp a lot of first-hand fresh news English reading materials to understand current events around the world. This form of understanding English news can be seen everywhere and everywhere in the current daily study and life, so it is undoubtedly an opportunity for learners to improve their learning ability, and it is necessary for translators to have a deep understanding of it. The translation will be more acceptable to the readers. Among them, News English, as a form of English presentation, mainly presents what has just happened or is about to happen. At the same time, the specific contents and forms of news English can also be listed in detail in the following aspects: sports, economy, culture, science and technology, tourism and so on. But on the whole, a news report in English often has three structural parts: title, introduction and text.

In order to ensure that the content stated in the news report can be accurately delivered, and at the same time to ensure that the target language readers and the source language readers have the same reading effect. News English also has a very remarkable feature, that is, when using the corresponding words, they often spell out short words, sometimes use the first letter, and abbreviate in capitals. This is often the case in news headlines, so as to make the headlines more persuasive and more accurate.^[1]The translator plays a connecting role in the process of Chinese-to-Chinese translation, not only to convey the content to be expressed in the original text, but also to take into account the acceptance of the readers. Therefore, the Chinese-to-Chinese translation of news English has also become an important bridge for international communication and dialogue, which can better read the news and improve their comprehensive literacy.

2. Theory of Functional Equivalence

Eugene A. Nida, a master of structuralist language and an American linguist, firstly put forward the

idea of dynamic equivalence in his book *Toward a Science of Translation* published in 1964. The so-called "dynamic equivalence" refers to "the closest and most natural equivalence between the target language information and the source language information", which contains three layers of meaning: the first layer-equivalence, the translation should be consistent with the source text; the second layer-nature, refers to the fluency of the target text, which is more in line with the expression habits of the target language, without translation tone. The third layer, the closest, refers to the fact that the equivalent effect can not be achieved between the two languages, but is often pursued in terms of meaning and form. Nida believes that the core of "dynamic equivalence" is that "in the process of reading, the target language readers can produce the same reading effect as the source language readers". In other words, the ultimate goal of translation is to make the expression of the target text completely natural and fluent, which refers not only to language fluency, but also to the culture and habits of the target language readers. And then in 1969, Nida further corrected it to "functional equivalence" and gave a more detailed and precise definition of "reproducing the source language information in the closest and most natural equivalent in the target language, firstly in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style." (Nida and Taber, 2004)^[2]. Generally divided into four aspects: lexical equivalence, syntactic equivalence, textual equivalence and stylistic equivalence, among which Nida believes that "meaning is the most important, form is the second".

Therefore, in the Chinese-to-Chinese translation of news English, the translator should first follow the principles and theories mentioned above and accurately present the meaning contained in the original text to the target language readers.

2.1. Functional Equivalence at the Lexical Level

Vocabulary is not only the basic unit of a complete sentence, but also a basic unit of meaning expression. Chinese and English belong to two different language families, in which Chinese belongs to the Sino-Tibetan language family, while English belongs to the Indo-European language family. There is a slight difference in the way of expression. Chinese like to use four-character case, but this kind of structure does not exist in English.

Therefore, in the process of translation, translators should pay attention to these differences. If they can use more four-character words, it will be more authentic, and it will be easier for the target language readers to understand, which is more in line with the characteristics of the theory of functional equivalence.

However, the function of the translator here is to discuss and dialectically according to the characteristics of words and specific cases in order to achieve a "good" translation.

2.2. Functional Equivalence at the Sentence Level

Chinese is a parataxis language, there is no need for conjunctions between sentences, and the meaning is coherent, while English is a hypotaxis language, which pays attention to logical structure and preciseness. And most importantly, there are differences in the cultural backgrounds of the two languages, so specific sentences should be analyzed in detail. In view of a special context, the translator should have a deep understanding of its connotation and the true intention of the original author, so as to ensure that the readers and the source language readers have the same reading effect and will not feel blocked.

Chinese is a semantic language that pays attention to parataxis. In its idiomatic expression, it pays attention to the chronological order and the development of things, and transmits the content according to function and meaning. Repetition, antithesis, contrast and parallelism are common and popular rhetorical devices with neat, concise sentence patterns. The translator should pay special attention to the translation methods of such words in the light of the differences, grammatical functions, conjunctions, parts of speech transformation and morphological changes between Chinese and English.

In a word, through an in-depth understanding and analysis of the theory of functional equivalence, it will help readers to better read news English and other texts, and help translators consolidate their own theoretical foundation and better guide translation practice in the future. Theory is the cornerstone of practice.

Active sentences and passive sentences are also of great significance in stylistic analysis. The subject in the active sentence is the issuer of the action and has a very important position, so it indicates the subjectivity of the narrative and the absoluteness of power, indicating that the control of the subject

is very strong, while the passive voice is objective and abstract, which generally reflects passive reception without control. Active sentences are preferred in Chinese, while passive sentences are frequently used in English context. In news English, passive sentences are also frequently used, so they are more objective, persuasive and authentic.

3. The Stylistic Features of Journalistic English

Stylistics is an interdisciplinary discipline, which is essentially an interdisciplinary comparative study of linguistics and other adjacent disciplines (literature, law, political science, media studies, cognitive science, pedagogy, etc.)^[3]. In addition, based on the functional equivalence theory introduced above, this paper will comprehensively analyze the phase features, lexical features and syntactic structure of journalistic English based on the stylistic type of journalistic English. With a view to obtaining a translation that is easily accepted and understood by the target language readers.

3.1. Linguistic Features

The special use of language signs can usually attract readers' attention and interest in reading, and pay special attention to it, such as capitalization, bold or changing the original font or font size, etc. Therefore, the title is the main form of expression of this stylistic feature. When readers open a web page to read a news article, the first thing they see is the title, and at the same time, it is also a brief overview and summary of the content of the article. Next, readers will read and appreciate its content in detail.

Therefore, the translator's accurate analysis and translation of the title is a vital link and process.

Example 1

ST: 24 Solar Terms: 6 things you may not know about Grain Buds.

TT: 24 Solar terms: six things you may not know about Lesser Fullness of Grain.

Analysis: "24 Solar terms" belongs to the intangible cultural heritage of mankind. In each solar term, China Daily publishes an article on its website and WeChat official account to show readers the context of this solar term, which is of great practical significance.

Furthermore, readers can understand the general information content in the article when they see this title, which is clear and easy to understand at a glance, and will not appear complicated and redundant, too complicated and tedious.

Example 2

ST: Cultural Insider: Traditions during leap month.

TT: The connotation of Culture: the Customs of Leap month.

Analysis: This title uses a combination of two juxtaposed phrases, the latter of which is a further explanation of the previous one; and the title is appropriate in length and not too long, but also achieves the purpose and effect of conciseness and clarity. In a word, through the contrastive analysis and interpretation of the title features of news English from two examples at the lexical level, it can be concluded that the main features of news English are the use of some phrases, short sentences, rhetorical questions and voice transformation. In order to catch the reader's eye and attract the reader's attention.

Example 3

ST: China International Tea Industry Expo opens in Xi'an

Example 4

ST: 10 must-try foods in Xi'an

Analysis: This title gives an account of the event and place, through which we can know what the report is about, and it can well attract readers' interest, and then read the following text.

In a word, through the contrastive analysis and interpretation of the title features of news English through the contrastive analysis of four examples at the phase level, it can be concluded that the main features of news English are the use of some phrases, short sentences, rhetorical questions and voice

transformation. in order to catch the reader's eye and attract the reader's attention. From the perspective of rhetoric, the active voice is more vivid and infectious than the passive voice, and the meaning expressed is more direct, which makes the reader feel authentic and natural and easy to read. [4]

3.2. Lexical Level

As the audience of News English is the public, especially websites and official accounts, the more readers they browse, the more they will read, and the better the effect will be. There is no need to say much about the importance of vocabulary, it is like a foundation to a tall building. Therefore, from the lexical level, one of the major characteristics of news English is that new words derive very quickly, closely follow the trend of the times and reflect social phenomena, and can be spread and promoted on a large scale and on a large scale through online media.

Another main feature is the frequent occurrence of acronyms; due to the limitation of space, the use of acronyms can often simplify the number of words and attract readers, such as organization and organization nouns, which can catch readers' attention and attention.

In the process of translation, only by making good use of the theory of functional equivalence can a higher quality translation be achieved, and readers will not have any deviations and misunderstandings.

Example 5

ST: ..., following the inscription of traditional tea processing techniques and their associated social practices in China on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2022.

Analysis: The frequent use of acronyms is another lexical feature of China Daily official account News English. Due to the limited space, abbreviations are often used in newspapers and periodicals. And then, Due to the limited space, acronyms are widely used in news English. [5] For example, the use of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) here can shorten the length of articles, be clear and avoid complexity, help readers grasp the main points, and people have long been accustomed to using such conventional acronyms.

Example 6

ST: Sri Lanka, Turkey and Zimbabwe, watched the performance of intangible cultural heritage *chabaixi* (painting on the ground tea leaves with plain water).

Analysis: With the increasing international influence of our country, our traditional culture is also gradually moving towards the center of the international stage. For example, if the translator chooses the method of literal translation, the tea culture, the tea culture, which is the intangible cultural heritage here, the target language readers are somewhat puzzled, and the connotation of the original text will be better displayed through the method of interpretation.

3.3. Syntactic Level

News English has the characteristics of effectiveness, objectivity and conciseness, so the simple present tense is usually used in sentences to give readers a sense of visual impact and enhance the freshness of the report. Because of its timely environment and content, it has its unique syntactic features, which plays an important role in the style of journalistic English. [6] Therefore, according to the relevant data, most English sentences show "spatial structure" and Chinese sentences show "time structure" [7].

Example 7&8

ST7: People living near Wuyi Mountain in East China's Fujian province have the tradition of drinking tea at leap month, and only women are eligible to participate.

ST8: The Huabiao Film Awards, one of China's most prestigious film competitions, announced the winners for its 18th and 19th editions on Tuesday night.

Analysis: In the above two examples, the verbs use the simple present tense and the simple past tense respectively. The choice of the verb tense in the news is actually to express the relationship between the action and the speaking time.

The present tense in example 7 can well reflect the real sense of the occurrence of the event,

showing immediacy, while in example 8, the past tense can express the sense of reality and reflect the objective facts.

In addition, through the analysis, it is found that there are many long and difficult sentences in news English, which is also a concentrated embodiment of the differences between English and Chinese. English sentences are connected with conjunctions and are coherent, which is also a manifestation of hypotaxis. On the contrary, Chinese is a parataxis language, which is integrated through meaning, so we should pay special attention to this difference in the process of Chinese-to-Chinese translation.

Example 9

ST: This zone has attracted thousands of renowned enterprises, presenting a comprehensive range of products that span the entire tea industry chain, including tea varieties, tea food, tea apparel, purple clay, ceramics, tea utensils, and crafts.

TT: The park has attracted thousands of well-known enterprises and displayed a full range of products across the entire tea industry chain, including tea varieties, tea food, tea clothing, purple mud, ceramics, tea sets and handicrafts.

Analysis: The sentence presented in example 8 uses the present perfect tense, which indicates that the past action or state continues to the present, or the influence on the present may continue to occur. In addition, it can also be found that this sentence is the embodiment of a typical long and difficult sentence. In the process of translation, the translator should pay attention to the division of sentence components in order to translate authentic and in line with the Chinese expression.

4. Conclusion

In a word, through the above analysis and discussion of Nida's theory of functional equivalence and the stylistic features of news English, we can come to the conclusion that whether it is official account or news English on the website. It is one of the important ways to spread information and news content, so in the process of Chinese-to-Chinese translation, the translator makes appropriate stylistic analysis is the first choice. Secondly, the importance of title, vocabulary, syntax and discourse structure is self-evident. Finally, based on translation methods and strategies, an authentic and satisfactory translation can be obtained.

This stylistic type, News English, is publicized and reported in the form of words, and its main task is to report major events at home and abroad as quickly as possible, which requires accurate and clear newspaper language.^[8] Therefore, this will inevitably affect its own language structure, resulting in specific language forms and stylistic features, and phase, vocabulary and syntax are indispensable components. In recent years, with the rapid development of society, news English translation has attracted more and more attention, because its translation level also plays an important role in the process of social development. At the same time, it is of great significance to promote social and economic construction. At the same time, it is undeniable that there are some difficulties in news English translation, which requires that the translator must have rich knowledge and sufficient practical experience. Among them, the most important thing is that translators must be able to fully combine the particularity of news English and skillfully adopt corresponding translation methods. Therefore, in view of the importance and complexity of news English translation, translators must constantly improve the translation methods of news English in practical work, so as to further improve the quality and efficiency of their work. It is expected that this article can contribute to the translation of the corresponding words and sentences in such texts, so that the translation can become a medium of communication and dialogue and strengthen in-depth communication.

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