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厦门大学

硕士学位论文

新闻发布会汉英同传的策略分析
——基于《国家新型城镇化规划（2014-2020年）》新闻发布会同传的研究

Analysis of SI Strategies in C-E Press Conference
Interpretation--A Case Study of the Interpretation of the
Press Conference of National New-type Urbanization Plan
(2014-2020)

丁灿波

指导教师姓名: 苏伟 副教授
专业名称: 翻译硕士英语口语译
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Abstract

In studying conference interpretation, the interpreting strategies have always been a hot issue. The comprehensive and systematic studies regarding simultaneous interpreting (SI) strategies from Chinese to English in conferences are limited. By focusing on a particular event and summarizing the various and overlapping online strategies, the author hopes to identify the obstacles in SI from Chinese to English and the related coping strategies to bring more insights about this topic.

This thesis is composed of five chapters. The author first introduces research background and research objective: to identify and classify the interpreting strategies in Chinese to English simultaneous interpretation in a conference.

After literature review on interpreting strategies, research questions are raised: What kinds of SI strategies can be found in a real C-E interpreting circumstance? What are the most frequently applied interpreting strategies in a professional interpreter's performance in C-E interpreting? What strategies are available when the interpreters experience Chinese language-related challenges?

The author then conducts a case study based on National New-type Urbanization Plan (NNUP) Press Conference. With observation as the main research method, nine strategies and four subcategories of compression (omission, generalization, approximation, and simplification) are identified and classified. Compression, transformation, and explicitation rank the top three most frequent strategies applied. Interpreters usually resort to strategies such as omission, transformation addition and chunking to cope with the two Chinese language-related obstacles in C-E interpreting: language obstacles characterized by Chinese politics and culture, and Chinese left-branching structures.

Pedagogical implication and limitation are discussed as well. If supported by both the interpreters' feedback and large-scale corpus, the findings could be more objective. Finally, this paper calls for comprehensive and all-round strategy studies with more research methods.

Key words: interpreting strategies; simultaneous interpreting; Chinese to English interpreting; obstacle

摘要

在会议口译研究中，口译策略一直都是热点议题。然而目前较全面与系统的关于会议中译英同传策略研究相对较少。本文通过一场翻译活动对口译策略的类别以及复合型策略进行总结，希望揭示汉译英同传中存在的障碍及对策，对后续同传策略的研究提供参考。

本文由五个章节组成：作者首先介绍了研究背景和研究目标：尽可能多地发现一场中译英会议同传活动所出现的策略并进行分类。

文章综述口译策略的相关文献后引出研究问题：在此次真实口译任务中什么类型的策略是可被找到的？在职业译员中译英的实际操作中哪些策略的使用最为突出？应对具汉语特色障碍时译员会采用何种策略？

作者对《国家新型城镇化规划（2014-2020年）》基本情况新闻发布会做具体案例研究。观察法是本文主要的研究方法。研究发现并归类了九种策略，其中压缩策略还包含四个类别（省略、概括、模糊化以及简化）。使用次数和频率位列前三名的策略分别为压缩、转换以及显化。汉语特色障碍分别是有中国政治文化特色的语言和汉语左倾结构。在应对汉语特色障碍时，译员通常采用省略、转换、组块和增加的策略。

本文还提出了此次研究对口译教学的启示以及本次研究的局限性。研究者如获得译员的反馈以及较大规模真实语料库的支持则研究结果会更为客观。最后，作者呼吁利用更多研究方法继续开展全面和系统性的口译策略研究。

关键词：口译策略 同传 汉译英 障碍

Table of Contents

Abstract.....	I
摘要.....	II
1 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Research Background.....	1
1.2 Research Objective.....	3
2 Literature Review.....	4
2.1 Interpreting Strategies.....	5
2.2 Interpreting Strategy Research in China.....	6
2.3 Research Questions.....	7
3 Case Introduction.....	9
4 Results and Discussion.....	12
4.1 Compression.....	12
4.1.1 Omission.....	13
4.1.2 Approximation.....	17
4.1.3 Generalization.....	18
4.1.4 Simplification.....	19
4.2 Explication.....	20
4.3 Transformation.....	24
4.4 Repair.....	26
4.5 Chunking.....	26
4.6 Anticipation.....	27
4.7 Stalling/Lagging.....	29
4.8 Shortening Ear-voice Span.....	30
4.9 Addition.....	30
4.10 Chinese language-related Obstacles and Coping Strategies.....	31
4.10.1 Language Obstacles Characterized by Chinese Politics and Culture.....	31
4.10.2 Chinese Left-branching Structures.....	32
4.11 Summary.....	34
5 Conclusion.....	35
5.1 Findings.....	35
5.2 Implications.....	36

5.3 Limitations.....	36
References.....	37
Acknowledgments.....	40

厦门大学博硕士学位论文摘要

目 录

摘要 (英文).....	I
摘要 (中文).....	II
1 简介	1
1.1 研究背景.....	1
1.2 研究目标.....	3
2 文献综述	4
2.1 口译策略.....	5
2.2 中国的口译策略研究.....	6
2.3 研究问题.....	7
3 案例介绍	9
4 结果与探讨	12
4.1 压缩.....	12
4.1.1 省略.....	13
4.1.2 模糊化.....	17
4.1.3 概括.....	18
4.1.4 简化.....	19
4.2 外显.....	20
4.3 转换.....	24
4.4 修补.....	26
4.5 组块.....	26
4.6 预测.....	27
4.7 拖延.....	29
4.8 缩短听说差.....	30
4.9 增加.....	30
4.10 具有汉语特色障碍及应对策略.....	31
4.10.1 中文政治文化特色表达.....	31

4.10.2 汉语左倾结构.....	32
4.11 小结.....	33
5 结论	35
5.1 研究.....	35
5.2 教学启示.....	36
5.3 本研究局限.....	36
参考文献	37
致谢	40

1 Introduction

1.1 Research Background

Interpreting is the facilitation of the oral or sign-language communication, either simultaneously or consecutively, among the users of the different languages. Translation study is systematic study of the theory, description, and application of interpretation and translation. Interpreting study has long been held as a branch of translation study. So it is credible that the former derives from the latter.

However, interpreting is not translating. Regarding this, AIIC (aiic.net), the most influential organization of the interpreters worldwide, gives the clarification in three aspects:

The spoken word. In interpretation, it is spoken while in translation it is written. Interpretation makes use of the linguistic resources where the speaker's original ideas are transmitted as spoken words using rhythm and intonation, along with rhetorical devices and gestures.

Time constraints. Interpretation is carried out in real time (simultaneously) or very close to it (consecutively). The interpreter has no time to refer to the written resources available to the translators. This makes the preparation before each assignment more essential for an interpreter. Another constraint is the extreme speed at which the interpreter has to receive, understand, manage, and reconstruct information. A translator may translate 2,000 to 3,000 words a day while an interpreter has to keep up with around 150 words a minute.

The context of communication. In conducting an interpretation, the communication is immediate with an interaction among the speakers, listeners, and interpreters. In translation, there is always a gap between the writing of a text by an author and its reception of the readers.

What is more, Gile proposed an Effort Model, which explains how SI is performed by interpreters. Simultaneous interpreting (SI) can be modeled as a process that consists of the three efforts described, namely: the Listening and Analysis Effort L, the Short-term Memory Effort M and the Speech Production Effort P, plus a Coordination Effort C, which corresponds to the resources to coordinate the three other Efforts such as $SI = L + P + M + C$ (Gile, 2011:156).

Since interpreting, particularly SI, is a highly demanding profession, the interpreters have to receive a rigid training to obtain all sorts of skills or abilities, such as language proficiency, coordination, communication, and so on.

Instantaneity and Tightrope Hypothesis

Instantaneity is one of the basic features of interpreting that differentiates it from the written translation. SI, in particular, requires an instant output of the target language and is subject to the extremely limited time. The time necessary for listening, processing, and expressing is counted by seconds or even milliseconds. Unable to catch up with the speaker or render the target language (TL) is largely the consequence of the quick tempo of interpreting, time pressure, and insufficient coordination.

In Tightrope Hypothesis, the total capacity consumption is close to the interpreter's total available capacity. Any increase in the processing capacity requirements and any instance of mismanagement of the cognitive resources by the interpreter can bring about overload or local attentional deficit and consequent deterioration of the interpreter's output (Gile, 1999).

Information Density and Talking Speed

Wu Yuanning (吴远宁, 2003) analyzed the language peculiarities of speeches in simultaneously interpreted conferences. He claimed that the excessive lexical density will result in information density and comprehension pressure. The comfortable talking speed of the speaker ranges from 100 to 150 words/min. The average speaking rate of Mandarin Chinese is 245 syllables per minute (孟国, 2006; qtd. in Yu Kaishan, 2009).

The articulation rate (AR) in a general sense is the rate of speed or pace of which one can speak in a continuous speech. It is calculated by dividing the number of words or syllables by the time of the articulation or equal to the total time minus the pauses and blanks. In English, AR is measured by the words per minute or syllable per minute, and in Mandarin Chinese, it is measured by syllable or characters per minute (Yu Kaishan, 2009).

This paper adopts the most general term "talking speed" instead of articulation

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