Causes of Redundancy and Coping Tactics in English-Chinese Consecutive Interpreting
--A Case Study of the Mock Conference of Ian Newton's "Refugees under the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Abstract: In the process of English-Chinese consecutive interpreting, the target language should be fluent, concise and in line with the language expression habits. However, due to the influence of various factors, there will be a lot of redundancy, so that the time of the translation will exceed the time of the original text, which will affect the quality and efficiency of consecutive interpreting. This thesis is a case study of the mock conference of Ian Newton's "Refugees under The COVID-19 Pandemic", which analyzes the redundancy phenomenon in the case, studies the causes and relevant coping tactics, and provides the basis for interpreting practice, effectively avoiding the recurrence of this situation, presenting a more concise and clear translation language, and further improving the quality of interpreting.

Keywords: Consecutive Interpreting; Redundancy; Causes of Redundancy; Coping Tactics

1. Introduction

In English-Chinese consecutive interpreting, the author analyzes and integrates the content of the original text to a certain extent, and then needs to translate the relevant content more accurately in a short time, and also needs to make the target language smooth, concise and in line with the language expression habits. However, in practice, the author often faces the problem of redundancy. A large amount of redundancy leads to the difficulty and impatience of the audience in understanding the relevant content, reduces the audience's experience and feelings, and seriously affects the quality and efficiency of consecutive interpreting.

In the mock conference of Ian Newton's "Refugees under The COVID-19 Pandemic", the author found that his translated language also had a lot of redundancy by listening to the translation records. Therefore, the author decides to deeply explore the phenomenon of redundancy in this simulation meeting, and summarize the causes and coping tactics of redundancy in English-Chinese consecutive interpreting.

2. Definition and classification of redundancy in interpretation

2.1 Definition

The word "redundancy" first appeared in Claude Elwood Shannon's information theory, which is a law required in the process of information transmission and transformation (C.E. Shannon, 1951). In 1982, Nida, E.A first applied information theory to translation studies（Nida, 1964:131）.

Information theory tells us that the redundancy of information helps to transmit information more accurately and ensures our daily communication. However, excessive redundancy is an important problem restricting the translation process, which directly affects the efficiency of language communication (Zhang Yi, 2019). Therefore, translators need to ensure that the language is concise when outputting information and keep the redundancy within an acceptable range.

2.2 Classification

As for the classification of redundancy, many scholars have different classification standards. Therefore, different methods are used to classify redundancy, and the results will be different. He Xing (2000) divided redundant information into five categories: structural redundancy, semantic redundancy, contextual redundancy, paralinguistic feature redundancy and prosodic feature redundancy (Su Keyin.,2019). Tian Yan (2001:30-32) classified redundant information into grammatical redundant information and semantic redundant information according to its nature. Among them, semantic redundant information is further divided into explicit semantic redundant information and implicit semantic redundant information. Li Jing (2014) divided redundancy into positive redundancy and negative redundancy according to the effect of language expression.

3. Case introduction of the mock conference

3.1 Conference introduction

The analysis case is the mock conference held at the Zoom conference room at four o'clock p.m. on the afternoon of April 1, 2020 at the Shanghai International Studies University. The theme is "Refugees under The COVID-19 Pandemic". The keynote speaker is the director of the interpretation Office of the International Labour Organization and Professor Ian Newton, a visiting professor at the Geneva high school. Due to the impact of the epidemic, the mock conference was arranged to be held online. The whole meeting lasted for two hours. Due to the cross-border online meeting, there were problems such as jamming, disconnection and debugging equipment, and the actual speech time was 45 minutes.

The main research materials of this thesis is the recording of the conference speech and the recording of the author's translation into text, which can be used as the reference materials of this study. The purpose of this chapter is to introduce the mock conference, and briefly describe the problems and coping tactics of redundancy in post translation.

3.2 Causes of redundancy

The author believes that the main reasons for the redundancy of the target language include: hearing barriers, unclear logic of notes, narrow vision of reading notes, making long sentences, improper organization of complex sentences and bad language habits such as pet phrases.

① Unclear logic of notes

Source language: Now, UNHCR was originally created in 1950, and that was in the aftermath of the Second World War. So, it was created a little later than the United Nations was set up immediately after the Second World War in San Francisco. But UNHCR's purpose, at the time when it would set up five years after the rest of the United Nations, its purpose was to millions of Europeans of Europeans who had been displaced by the war and who had lost their homes. (Lai Xiangyu, 2020:12-13)

Target language: 联合国难民署最初成立于 1950 年，那是在第二次世界大战之后。当然，它比联合国成立的时间晚了一点，大约是联合国成立五年后。联合国难民署成立时，它的目的是帮助数百万因战争而流离失所、失去家园的欧洲难民。

Analysis: The source language of this paragraph mainly expounds two messages: one is the time when UNHCR was established, and the other is the purpose of UNHCR. In presenting the first message, the phrase "Founding of the United Nations" was repeated twice, and some new information was added after each repetition, resulting in redundancy. When encountering such problems, the author needs to take notes, sort out the logical relationship between sentences and integrate information in time, so as to convey relevant information in a concise and clear way in subsequent translation.

Improved target language: 联合国难民署成立于第二次世界大战后，1950 年，即联合国成立五年后，其目的是帮助数百万因战争而流离失所、失去家园的欧洲难民。

② Narrow vision of reading notes

Source language: UNHCR is currently active in 134 countries across the globe. To deploy its action, it employs some 16,800 staff. And whereas its budget in in in the first year of its existence was a mere 300,000 U.S. Dollars. By the year 2016 that budget had increased to some 6.54 billion U.S. Dollars. So you can see the remarkable expansion of the financial resources made available to it over the years. （Lai Xiangyu, 2020:12-13）

Target language: 联合国难民署目前在全球 134 个国家开展活动。为了部署他们的行动，他们雇佣了 16800 名员工。而他们成立第一年的预算仅为 30 万美元。到 2016 年，预算已增至六十五万、六十五亿，五、四千万美元。因此，你可以看到，多年来，他们的财政资源增长多么快。

Analysis: A large number of demonstrative pronouns "they" appear in the target language, which is repetitive and wordy, and does not conform to the language expression habits of Chinese. The main reason for this problem is that when translating sentences, the author just put his eyes on the corresponding notes and translated them in order from top to bottom without effective sorting, so he used demonstrative pronouns to connect, resulting in the redundancy of the target language.

Improved target language: 联合国难民署目前在 134 个国家开展行动，雇佣了 16800 名员工。他们第一年的预算仅为 30 万美元，到 2016 年达到六十五亿四千万美元，可见财政资源增长多么快。

3.3 Coping Tactics

① Improve hearing ability

In this simulation meeting, the author caused the omission of some information due to the generation of hearing and discrimination barriers. In order to make up for this defect, there was a lot of redundancy which affected the quality and efficiency of the target language. The author believes that in the future interpretation practice: firstly, we should strengthen the bilingual ability and master all kinds of knowledge. Secondly, we should actively and carefully listen and distinguish, integrate duplicate information in time, delete invalid information and improve the speed of bilingual conversion. Finally, we should record important information without being disturbed by unfamiliar words or terms.

② Strengthen note taking logic

The main reason for the redundancy in this case is the unclear logic of the notes, the failure of the new information to integrate with the previous information, the confusion of the notes and the unclear logical marks, resulting in the author's unclear thinking, so that the target language is wordy. Therefore, we should reduce mechanical records, strengthen thinking and summarize information in time; carefully analyze the logical relationship between sentences. The symbols expressing the logical relationship should be marked with key points, and the middle of each meaning group can be divided by a line.

③ Adjust interpretation strategies

After analyzing the recording of the conference speech and the recording of the author's target language, the author finds that when the notes are clear, there will still be a large number of pronouns repeated in the target language, resulting in the redundancy. Through analysis, the author believes that the reason for this phenomenon is the narrow visual range of reading notes. Visual range generally refers to an effective range of content that people's eyes can see when their eyes pause once when reading books or viewing objects and images. In translation, visual range refers to the content of notes that the author can see clearly at one time in the process of translation. In this simultaneous interpretation meeting, the author focused on the notes of this paragraph and did not scan the next notes in advance, resulting in a lot of redundancy in the translation process (Tan Wen, 2019:19). Therefore, we should cultivate the habit of pre-reading notes to prepare for the next translation; At the same time, take into account language speed and simplicity, use more simple sentence patterns and conform to language expression.

④ Standardize relevant expressions

In the process of translation, due to psychological tension, too fast speaking speed, the content of translation belongs to the field where we are not good at, and other factors, there are many repetitions and pauses in translation, such as "we want, then we want, uh", which is the author's subconscious bad language habit. To improve this habit, first of all, we need to learn to reduce the speed of speaking, try to keep the language smooth and steady rhythm, leave enough thinking time for our later translation, don't be nervous and anxious when there are mistakes, so as to get stuck, and keep a stable state of mind and carry out the later translation in an orderly manner. At the same time, this phenomenon can also be improved through a lot of

practice. For example, the author can carry out targeted and intensive training for interpretation such as numbers and places. When similar situations occur in practice later, the author's psychological pressure will be greatly reduced. Finally, in daily practice of interpretation and oral expression, we should always pay attention to whether the sentence structure we use conforms to the expression habits of Chinese and English, whether it is concise and clear, etc.

4. Conclusion

From the background of the concept of redundancy, the definition of redundancy, and the different classification methods of redundancy for different scholars, taking the case study of the mock conference of Ian Newton's "refugees under the COVID-19 pandemic", this article analyzes the main reasons for the redundancy, and finally puts forward four specific coping tactics, and hopes that this analysis will play a certain role in the interpretation practice. And try to avoid the redundancy and make the target language concise, fluent and accurate.

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