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口语—书面语连续统:  
基于语料库的口译体研究

On the Oral-Literate Continuum:  
A Corpus-Based Study of *Interpretese*

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## Abstract

Despite the fact that language is primarily spoken, whether from a historical, a developmental, or a communicative perspective, the spoken language has remained understudied compared with its written counterpart due to a traditional disregard for and the elusiveness of the spoken language. The vast availability and portability have made written texts the main focus of many linguistic studies. In the field of translation studies, especially corpus-based translation studies, the same trend persists. Written translation is much more studied than interpreting, its mostly spoken counterpart.

This dissertation selects the less studied spoken and translated variety of texts, i.e. interpreted texts, or *interpretese*, as the focus of investigation and attempts to establish *interpretese* as a genre in its own right. Adopting the Genre and Register Theory as a conceptual framework, the author analyzes the nature of *interpretese* as a genre, its modality, ontology and registerial features. As a methodological framework for the study, Biber's multidimensional approach to genre and register variations is adapted in combination with the strengths of Shlesinger's orality parameters for examining *interpretese*. An integrated model is proposed to capture the unique dimensions of orality-literacy in both the original and interpreted texts. These dimensions cover the involvedness, constrainedness (of the production circumstance), context-boundedness, abstractness and prosody of the texts under investigation.

To apply the integrated model to investigating the nature of *interpretese*, a comparative and parallel Chinese-English interpreting corpus based on nine Summer Davos Panel Discussions (2011) has been built. The corpus consists of 1,086 minutes of video, and a total of 191,539 tokens of transcribed texts which have been divided into four sub-corpora, i.e. Chinese Source Texts (C-ST), Chinese Target Texts (C-TT), English Source Texts (E-ST) and English Target Texts (E-TT) for the convenience of analysis. The linguistic features manifesting each dimension are selected and

compared and contrasted across ontologies (C-ST vs. C-TT; E-ST vs. E-TT)) and across languages (E-ST vs. C-TT; C-ST vs. E-TT). Gender (male vs. female speaker/interpreter) and language status (whether the language in question is the speaker/interpreter's native or non-native language) are also considered as variables.

The study finds that on some dimensions (e.g. involvedness, context-boundedness) *interpretese* seems to have a clear tendency to shift toward the literate end of the oral-literate continuum. On others (e.g. constrainedness, prosody), however, the trend is inconclusive. There is also evidence that *interpretese* demonstrates a leveling out effect ( i.e. avoiding the extremes of the source texts), and a normalizing effect (i.e. moving toward the target language and culture).

Regarding the gender and language status variables, the study finds that gender does not affect speakers, yet it does seem to have an effect on interpreters. Language status, on the other hand, has an impact on the linguistic choices by both the speakers and the interpreters.

Finally, the dissertation also conducts a cross-register analysis of panel discussions (the current register in the corpus) with a list of spoken and written registers studied in Biber (1988, 1995), including face-to-face conversations, prepared speeches, personal letters, academic prose and official documents. As a register, panel discussions are placed on the continuum of each oral-literate dimension to examine its positioning in relation to other registers.

Key words: genre; register; interpretese; oral-literate continuum



## 摘要

不管从人类历史、个人成长还是从交际的视角来看，口头语都是最根本的语言形式。但是由于传统的对口头语的轻视以及口头语的难以琢磨性，对口头语的研究一直滞后于书面语。由于获取便捷、语料丰富的特点，书面语研究一直在语言学研究中占据主导地位。这一趋势在翻译研究中也同样存在，特别是在语料库翻译研究中，语料库笔译研究远远领先于语料库口译研究。

本论文选取口译这种通常以口头形式表达的翻译体作为研究对象，借用语类和语体理论为概念框架，将口译体视为一种独立的语类进行研究，分析了这种语类的载体、本体和语体。基于 Biber 的多维度语类/语体分析法以及 Shlesinger 测量口译语类口语化的参数，作者提出了一个针对口译体的多维度综合模型作为本研究的操作框架，以综合考量口译体的特征。综合模型的维度包括：互动度；产出受限度；语境依赖度；抽象化程度以及音韵维度。

为了分析口译体的口语化特征，作者利用 2011 年夏季达沃斯的九场主旨讨论自建了一个英汉、汉英对比、平行口译语料库。语料库视频总长度为 1,086 分钟，总字符数为 191,539。为了便于分析，语料库的文本部分分成了四个子库，即中文原文 (C-ST)、中文译文 (C-TT)、英文原文 (E-ST) 和英文译文 (E-TT)。论文选取每个维度的代表性语言特征，交叉比对和分析了同一语言的原创文本和口译文本（即 C-ST vs. C-TT；E-ST vs. E-TT）以及原创文本及其相应的口译文本（即 C-ST vs. E-TT，E-ST vs. C-TT）在这些维度上的共性与差异。同时，论文还考察了性别及语言状态两个变量对语言特征选择的影响。

研究发现，在有些维度（如互动度、语境依赖度）上，口译语类明显滑向了连续统上的书面一端。在另一些维度（如产出受限度、音韵）上，趋势并不明显。但口译语类总体呈现出“中和”以及“范化”的特征。

研究还发现，性别对发言人不产生影响，但男女译员在用词选择方面有一定的区别。语言状态（母语或非母语）对发言人和译员都有一定的影响。

最后，论文进行了跨语体对比，把本研究所用的语体，即主旨论坛发言作为一种语体，与 Biber (1988, 1995) 研究过的其他几种口头与书面语体进行了对

比，并在各个维度的口语-书面连续统上进行了排序。

**关键词：**语类；语体；口译体；口语-书面连续统

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