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口译中的源语文本分析：以博鳌论坛习主席
讲话为案例

Source Text Analysis in Interpreting: A Case Study of
President Xi's Speech at Boao Forum

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Abstract

Text analysis originated from text linguistics. It is a type of language analysis of text and aims to explain or construct new coherent text based on research into the text formation, cohesion and coherence. After the concept of “text” was regulated and defined by De Beaugrande & Dressler (1981), this method of text analysis was further developed. In the translation studies, Halliday (1994) brought forward the concept of “Theme and Rheme”, together with the “form and meaning coherence” from Widdowson and Hoey’s “situation-problem-solution-evaluation”, which all further improved the application of text analysis in translation. Started in the 1970s, the skopostheorie puts translation skopos as the sole goal, and holds high the principles of coherence, fidelity and loyalty.

On the basis of skopostheorie and combining with the concept and elements of text analysis, Nord constructed the model of translation-oriented text analysis that puts source text as the focus of analysis, rather than the target text as the traditional approach. In the model, Nord clarifies the elements in the source text as extratextual and intratextual factors and proposes some methods to extract the ideas of those factors in the source text to have an in-depth understanding.

Text analysis also received its application and popularity in the interpreting research and practice. For example, the Xiada model of interpretation adds the discourse comprehension ability into the interpreter training process. Based on the studies into the lexis, grammar and cultural background, the relating researches like the choice of interpreting materials, disfluency occur during the interpreting process had been done in connection with text analysis.

The current thesis uses skopostheorie and the model of translation-oriented text analysis as the theoretical foundation, adopting an applied research method. The text selected is the speech made by president Xi Jinping at the Boao Forum in 2013. The author makes a thorough analysis of the source text from the perspective of the intratextual and extratextual factors, and offers some advice and suggestions on the

handling of source text as well as the interpreting strategies.

Key Words: text analysis; skopostheorie; interpreting strategy

厦门大学博硕士学位论文摘要库

摘 要

文本分析起源于篇章语言学，是一种针对语篇的语言分析，旨在通过研究句子的组织、衔接和连贯方法的基础上，解释或者构建出新的连贯文本。在布格兰德与德列斯勒(1981)对文本的概念进行规范和定义后，文本分析这一方法得到了极大的推广。在翻译研究中，韩礼德(1994)创造性地提出了“主述位”概念，与威多森的“形连、意连”以及豪埃的“情形-问题-解决-评估”模型一起，极大地推动了翻译中文本分析的应用。起源于上世纪 70 年代的目的论则将翻译目的作为唯一标准，同时坚持连贯、忠实和忠诚的原则。

诺德以目的论为基础，结合文本分析的概念和要素，从而提出了以源语文本为基础的以翻译为导向的文本分析模式。将源语文本作为分析的中心，而非传统方法中的目标文本。在此模式中，诺德将源语文本中的要素细分为文外和文内因素，提出了从这些因素中提取信息的一些方法，从而更深入地把握源语文本。

文本分析在口译中也得到了一定的认可和应用，比如厦大口译模式中将语篇的理解能力加入口译员的训练过程。其他的相关研究方向则包括通过研究文本内的词汇、语法、背景知识等方面，得出如何选择译员口译练习材料以及分析译员口译过程中出现不连贯的问题的原因等。

本文将以目的论和诺德所提出的以翻译为导向的文本分析模式作为理论基础，采用应用研究的方法，选用的文本是习近平主席 2013 年在博鳌论坛开幕式的讲话。本文作者从文外因素和文内因素的角度出发，对源语文本做了详细的分析，也就源语文本的处理及口译策略提出了一些建议。

关键词：文本分析 目的论 口译策略

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Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Research Background

Since the 1950s, the development of the western translation theories had been closely connected with linguistics, and many translation scholars tend to explain based on it. For example, in terms of the nature of translation, Nida believes that “translation consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style.” (Nida, 2002: 12). Nida insists to put content in the first place and style the second by the way of sociolinguistics, he still understands and puts translation at the language level without realizing that the nature of translation, specially interpretation, is not just simply language transfer, but cultural communications built on top of different languages. With the development of translation practices and related research, the translation research trend towards TLC (target language culture) appeared in the 1970s in western countries, making the translators pay more attention to the target language text, its readers as well as its social effect and communicative functions.

Represented by Reiss, Vermeer, Holz-Mänttari and Nord, the skopostheorie puts the translated text as the first priority, and it is the translation skopos that determines the strategies taken to ensure a fine translation. Based on this, Nord brought forward the model of translation-oriented text analysis, and managed to have a systematic review of all the elements inside the source language text. In the model she established, the source text is further divided into two segments: extratextual and intratextual factors, in which the specific items of source text are clearly specified and examined.

“Oriented by the purpose, interpreting is basically viewed as a strategic process. For the researchers, it is a rather complicated skill that handles the cognitive information or text processing task.” (波赫哈克, 2010: 143) Out of the time limits and complicated structures, the coping strategies is thus urgently needed. For different types of research, different strategies are brought forward, such as the “compression”

and “prediction” in the interpreting studies that highlights the processing phase; the online (the interpreter has to think and act during the interpretation) and offline (the preparation work that the interpreter handles before the interpreting) strategies (ibid: 144); For the simultaneous interpreting field, three approaches were outlined: time allocation, restructuring and prediction.

Robin Setton (1999) brought forward a list of coping strategies based on the comparative study of source language and target language like paraphrasing, re-ordering, simplification of semantic structures, marking subordinate and non-declarative structures in simultaneous interpreting (Setton, 1999: 123-171).

Danica Seleskovitch (1979) took the interpreting strategies in a detailed way and examined them all the way through the interpreting process. Firstly, the comprehension ability, the interpreters should get to know the characteristics of the speaker, the logic and objective of the conversation, the use of memory; secondly, the self-cultivation and knowledge-acquiring ability for interpreters, second and more foreign languages as well as terminologies are also very important; thirdly, the expression ability, that is to keep the output away from the disturbance of foreign languages and make it in a clear and formal way (塞莱丝科维奇, 1979: 15-137).

In a whole, the related interpreting strategy studies are carried out from the following aspects: prediction, explanation and extraction, deletion, division and implication (张文, 2006: 91-92).

1.2 Research Significance

1.2.1 Theoretical Significance

The interpreting research had only been developed at a rather quick speed since the end of 1970s, and in just more than 30 years' study, much progress was made because of the aspirations and hard work of scholars in this field. However, the related research was mainly done by the introduction of interpreting experience at first, and it only became the trend of applying the theory of other disciplines to explain the interpreting work after the year 2000 (詹成, 2010: 91).

The Skopostheorie had received its popularity in the translation field since its introduction into China. As a major figure of it, Nord believes in the principle of “functionality plus loyalty”, and is in favor of dealing with the translation practices by the way of text analysis. In her mind, after a detailed analysis of intratextual and extratextual factors, the translators may grasp the major points that is included in the source text and then decide which part to be translated or neglected in order to construct the target text in a proper way. After the introduction and explanation of Nord’s model of translation-oriented text analysis, this thesis could open up a new field in the interpreting research, that is to enhance the interpreting ability from the side of applying a model to have a better analysis of source text. As we all know that, source text is all the interpreters get in the preparation phase.

1.2.2 Practical Significance

In terms of translation practice, there are different approaches towards it, namely the equivalence theory, the Skopostheorie and so on. They all have their own strengths, but when it comes to the translation practice, it is always the translators’ job to identify what to be translated and what to be missed.

With a detailed analysis of Nord’s model and applied research into the sample text, this paper strives to offer some practical guides and advice for the interpreters to follow. In one way, the interpreter could learn to get a basic understanding of the source language text before the translation work, which could enable them to finish the job in a sound and better way; In another way, this systematic model could offer some help in terms of interpreter training as the preparations and understanding of the source text is clearly the vital part both in the interpreter training phase. No preparation, no gains. The interpreting strategies gained from this paper could broaden the view of preparation from simply the background knowledge plus the meaning of the words and sentences to a full comprehension of the source text, and knowing what exactly the text sender want to convey to the target reader would absolutely improve the effect of the target text. The analysis of the factors inside the source text also provide different scenarios that may not be noticed in the past, which

is also quite helpful in enriching the preparation for the actual interpreting practices.

1.3 Research Objective

This paper starts from the model of translation-oriented text analysis put forward by Nord, the representative of the functionalist approach, together with its “looping model”, discusses the text analysis and transfer process during the interpreting practice of translators. Then combining with the foreign affairs interpreting text, this paper probes into the training methods and directions for interpreters through analyzing extratextual and intratextual factors. By the introduction and understanding of this model, this paper manages to offer some help on handling the source text in interpreting and some interpreting strategies that could be of practical help to the interpreting practice as well as the interpreter training.

1.4 Research Methodology

Foreign affairs text has its own characteristics. Firstly, preciseness. Foreign affairs activities are carried out between nations and closely bound with national interest, the texts used are all set after repeated deliberations; Secondly, sensitiveness. During the foreign affairs activities, the intended function of the speaker side has to be explained in a detailed and clear way, thus the text function of such text is more typical; Thirdly, flexibility. Although the source text is fixed, the interpreters could still alter it according to the objective of the speaker and the actual situation of the target language in order to convey the source text information in a better way. Because of the regularity of the source text and the authority of interpreter, the research into the foreign affairs interpreting could be easily applied to other forms of interpreting. As a result, the speech that president Xi Jinping made at the Boao Forum in 2013 is chosen as the sample text of this paper.

This paper applies an applied research method. Putting functionalist approach as the basic theory, “skopos-coherence-faithfulness” as the fundamental principle, the

model of translation-oriented text analysis as the basic direction, this paper manages to seek out the extratextual and intratextual factors that interpreters should follow and analyze before the interpreting practice. In the meantime, some practical advice and suggestions would be given after the detailed analysis.

1.5 the Formation of this Paper

There are altogether five chapters in this paper. First, it is the chapter of introduction, and for this part, the significance, objective, methodology and formation of this paper are fully illustrated, which cover the outlines and core ideas of this paper in a clear way. Chapter two is the literature review part, this chapter makes a detailed summary of the following subjects, namely, the definition of text analysis, the present research into Nord's model at home and abroad, the definition and current application of text analysis in translation and interpreting practices and theory research at home and abroad; Chapter three is an explanation of the shaping of Nord's model of translation-oriented text analysis, whose outline is also fully presented. Chapter four is the main structure of this paper, which discusses all the intratextual and extratextual factors of Nord's model and offers a clear description of it compared with the sample source text intercepted from the Boao speech made by President Xi Jinping. Chapter five is the conclusion part, the results, advice, limitations of this thesis as well as future research are presented.

Chapter 2 Literature Review

2.1 Text Analysis

2.1.1 Definition of Text

According to Longman modern English Dictionary, “text”, often used as a noun, refers to “the sustained narrative, train of thought or argument etc. in a written or printed work, as distinguished from footnotes, commentaries etc.” (Watson, 1976: 1143) In the field of sociolinguistics, specific meanings are attached onto the word “text” as “a term widely used to refer to specific instances of language and communication.” (Swann et al., 2004: 313)

In the western world, the word “text” is defined from two aspects: one is the words or symbols, another is the material that carries the contents (徐燕, 2011: 9). “Text” is not just about the interactions among different languages, it is also about the symbols that is solidified on certain objects through writing. As a result, text is not just in the word form, it could also be in the form of oral speaking, film and television dialogues. So, in conclusion, “text could be any object that expresses its intention of inquiring about the social culture.” (夏春祥, 2006: 141-166)

However, in the domestic and foreign linguistics circle, the definition of “text” is still a confusing subject. Hoey (1983: 15) believes that “text” refers to the “linguistic unit built by a series of continuous passages or sentences”, and “it could be an oral and written language of semantic integrity and random length” (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). In the book “Discourse Cohesion and Coherence”, Hu Zhuanglin points out that “text is a sort of natural language that is to reveal the integral meaning without full restricts of sentence grammar in certain context” (胡壮麟, 1994: 1). Huang Guowen was with the idea of Halliday and used the term “text” to refer to the oral and written languages (黄国文, 1988:4).

Above all, it could be clearly revealed that text stresses the semantic unit. It is

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