Strategies of Dealing with Redundancy in Chinese-to-English Simultaneous Interpreting from the Perspective of Information Theory

Xu Li[1,a,*]

[1]*Library, West Yunnan University of Applied Sciences, Dali, Yunnan, China*
[a]*1170041@wyuas.edu.cn*
[*]*Corresponding author*

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Abstract: Simultaneous interpreting is a translating method with the high efficiency, whose average time interval is short between the source text and the target text. Therefore, this characteristic can fully ensure a coherent speech and does not interrupt the thinking of the speaker, which helps audiences understand the whole speech smoothly. Owing to expression differences between Chinese and English, the redundancy phenomenon is prone to appear in the process of simultaneous interpreting. The author of this paper studies the problem of redundancy by own participation into the translation practice. The aim of this paper is to unmask the redundancy problem in the translation that has traditionally been neglected by English learners, especially for bilingual interpreters. This paper resorts to information theory and redundancy theory of information theory as well as some persuasive examples to discuss the redundancy problem and affords feasible solutions for interpreters with a view to advance their interpreting skills. The author deeply analyses strategies of dealing with the redundancy in the Chinese-English simultaneous interpreting for the purpose of providing abundant examples to the redundancy research.

1. Introduction

The Indian Ocean is the third largest of the world's oceanic divisions connecting with the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean. It is the vital communication line and link of the petroleum transportation running Asia, Africa and Oceania. In terms of shipping, countries and regions around the Indian Ocean play a major role for the world resources and plenty of cargoes depend on the ocean shipping, which makes the Indian Ocean has one fifth cargo handling capacity of the world. In the field of energy transportation, the Indian Ocean is a lifeline on account of the petroleum transportation through it accounts for more than 50%.

Yunnan is the only province in China that can directly connect countries around the Indian Ocean by land transportation through the Southeast Asia. Research Institute for Indian Ocean Economies (RIIO) founded by Yunnan University of Finance and Economies (YUFE) is an independent academic institution. RIIO upholds scientific, rigorous, pragmatic, truth-seeking

principles and it is committed to carrying out research on theories, practices and policies of the Indian Ocean, in addition, RIIO makes great contributions to the development of China and the Indian Ocean Region and also provides the intellectual support to governments and enterprises.

2. Preparation of the Task

This task is a simultaneous interpreting and the theme is mainly on politics and economy, which demands the sufficient preparation before the interpreting for interpreters.

2.1 Requirements of the Task

A lot of spoken languages and repetition exist in the speech and the speaker's speed is comparatively fast about 200 words per minute. What's more, two speakers made their speeches without the speech draft. Therefore, this task requires the interpreter to be equipped with the solid interpreting foundation, adept skills, agile thought, strain capacity and the integrity of the output information. During the interpreting, interpreter should interpret with great presence of mind and always follow the speech's speed and thoughts of speakers invariably.

2.2 Characteristics of the Task

Characteristics of this task is timeliness and accuracy. This practice report selects two representative seminar's speeches as the study objectives, one is The Dilemma and Future of the Islam Politicization, and the other one is Thoughts about the Strategy of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, the total length of these two speeches is 26 minutes and the record form is adopted. The author converts the recording material into the textual materials and studies the output information of speakers for the sake of coming up with the redundancy problem in the Chinese-English simultaneous interpreting. Then the author researches how to work out the redundancy problem in the Chinese-English simultaneous interpreting and put forward viable strategies.

2.3 The Audience

There are more than 40 scholars and experts at home and abroad gathered here and as a consequence, the target audience of this interpreting task are those who dig into the Indian Ocean region and the Asia-Pacific region matters, which are an undoubted challenges for interpreters.and the topics of the seminar are professional.

3. Process of Interpreting

In this part, the author will illustrate some emergency plans and interpreting assessments during this interpreting task.

3.1 Emergency Plans

No matter what preparation has been made before the interpreting, interpreters are still likely to encounter some unanticipated emergencies in the process of the interpreting. The author's emergency plans are as follows:

3.1.1 Language Emergency Plan

The simultaneous interpreting is a tough job and demands interpreters to output versions

immediately after the speaker, but sometimes on account of the interpreter's own limited English proficiency, it could be easily to appear translation problems, namely, the circumstance that fails in outputting the version. The information restructuring method and summing-up approach are author's strategies for this situation, the author restructures the received information and interprets the original meaning of sentences in accordance with the context that the author obtained and this method can be named summarized interpreting. The author uses simple words and own understanding to replace difficult ones and content in the sentence.

3.1.2 Insufficient Psychological Preparation and Stage Fright Emergency Plans

Interpreters should not reveal embarrassment or self-accusation when encountering some unexpected situations that baffle them during the interpreting, what they should do now is to adjust their psychological states and encourage themselves to focus on the interpreting work firstly and improve their anti-frustration ability later, which needs abundant mental exercises at the routine training.

3.1.3 Speech's Speed Emergency Plan

It is generally known that everyone's speed of speech is distinct. Interpreters are highly possible to meet a fast speed speaker. In this, the author designed this strategy: Before the interpreting, interpreters should make a proper communication with the speaker aiming for being familiar with his or her speed and accent. If the speaker speaks too fast, then we can appropriately and politely remind the speaker to slow down his or her speed in order to get the best effect of the interpreting.

3.1.4 Audience Emergency Plan

No interpreter can ensure the absolute correctness of every version. If the audience points out the version is wrong suddenly, the author's strategy will be: If the wrong is a critical error, and then we should make corrections timely after verifying it. If the interpreting time gets tight and the error is insignificant and then the author's strategy is to make no response and continue to work.

3.1.5 Bad Languages Emergency Plan

If the speaker is emotional and impulsive during the speech or sensitive topics leading to use the bad languages, what should we do? The author's strategies are as follows: We can appropriately lower the level of the bad languages and use some kind, low-harm words, that is to say, non-insulting words can avoid the serious and unnecessary quarrel. But if the situation impairs the national dignity, then we should abide by the original intention and faithfully interpreting.

3.2 Interpreting Assessments

A good practice paper should include the interpreting assessments and it can measure the quality of the task, especially from the client assessments, the interpreter can improve his or her interpreting skills and recognize deficiencies and weaknesses from the assessments.

3.2.1 Client Assessments

After the seminar, the interpreter can ask for a client assessments from seminar organizers. The client assessments can be based on the accuracy of the translation words, the effect of translation, interpreter's pronunciation and emergency capacities.   According to the client assessments, the interpreter received the public praise from clients, some unexpected situations happened during the

interpreting, but they were all handled well with calmness and appropriate approaches, and the output translation conforms to the service standards and reaches the desired effect of the speech and the good English pronunciation of the interpreter, which obtain the compliment from experts and audiences at home and foreign. In the meantime, clients also put forward some suggestions to interpreter, such as the interpreter should expand his own aspects of knowledge, learn some requisite and professional terms in the future study and work for advancing the work quality.

3.2.2 Self-Assessments

After the seminar, the author of this paper should objectively summarize the interpreting task in accordance with the accurate translation of words and sentences, pronunciation, strain capacity and anti-pressure capacity. By and large, the author actively prepared the interpreting with the positive and initiative attitude, but due to the lack of the interpreting experience, the author cannot make a all-sided preparation before the task and did not get hold of professional words. The transient memory and scopes of knowledge need to be reinforced, especially on the vocabulary. The interpreting note symbols are not succinct so as to waste the cherished time to take.

4. Theory Foundation

Owing to the fact that the redundancy problem is one major question during the interpreting. Therefore, the author adopts information theory and its redundancy theory by looking up the related theoretical data and thesis, On the basis of the author's self-understanding, information theory and its redundancy theory can availably figure out the redundancy problem during the interpreting. The author holds the idea that the moderate redundancy is the best effect of translation.

4.1 Theory Adopted

In this paper, the author mainly makes use of information theory and redundancy theory of information theory. From some authorities' traditional views about writing and translation, a piece of good writing or translation should be refrained from redundancy. Shannon's concept of redundancy was applied into translation by Eugene A. Nida firstly in 1964. Nida departed from such a minimalism on the subject and he realized that the function of redundancy can withstand noise and keep the communication channel. From the perspective of the traditional views, redundancy may be devoted to communication when linguists and translation theorists have discovered. So it is unnecessary to attempt to clear up the whole redundancy from writing and translation. Nida has made some researches that are the same with those in Shannon's works: The process of communication can be supported by the moderate redundancy rather than impeded. He also indicated: "theoretically, although redundancy might seem to be a waste of effort, it plays a key role in the efficiency of language, for by re-enforcing a communication by partially predictable signals one may overcome many of the barriers of 'noise' "[1].

4.2 Introduction to the Theory

To some extent, the theory is the foundation of a successful interpreting, the interpreter can conduct the task on the basis of the suitable and effective theory. A good interpreter or translator can enjoy the combine of the practice and theory so as to produce an excellent interpreting results.

4.2.1 Information Theory

Since the 1940s, the Mathematical Theory of Communication marked the birth of the science of

information. The founder of information theory is Claude E. Shannon who is a mathematician works in the Bell Telephone Institute in the United States. In his book, the information theory has been applied in the mathematical research and has processed the aspects and problems in communication and has also established quantitative ways of information and of the capacity of various systems to transmit, store and process information[3]. In order to clear the information coding problem in the communication technology, he broke old conventions and integrated encoder and decoder as a communication process and put forward the general model of communication system. At the same time, he established the formula of statistical information, which laid a solid foundation for information theory. Claude E. Shannon's information theory is a science that uses mathematical methods to research calculation, transmission, variation, process and storage of information. The information theory is one of the greatest intellectual achievements and it also influences other subjects, such as cybernetics, automation, computer science and thermodynamics and so on.

The narrow information theory is a science that applies the mathematical statistics method to study information processing and information transmission, while the broad information theory includes all areas related to information, the research area enlarges from natural science to the economy, management science and humanistic and social science. The information theory that refers to in this paper is the broad one. Language, belongs to the information theory range, is the carrier of information and the tool of human cognition. The essence of translation is transmission and communication of information. Information theory provides translation study with a brand new and effective method. Claude E. Shannon considers the information will be changed in the process of transmission, mainly caused by misinterpreting, the interference of irrelevant information and reduction of information, these are "noises" for information.

4.2.2 Redundancy Theory of Information Theory

The information theory shows us that the information will be inevitably disturbed in the transmission of the channel. In order to ensure the accuracy of information in the transmission, the information sender needs to repeat and accumulate the information in encoding, which offers more information to the receiver than the actual demand, this extra information is redundancy. It is necessary to keep the moderate redundancy in the information transmission. Too much or too less redundancy will influence the accuracy of the information[2].

The moderate redundancy in language is an indispensable factor for the success of the verbal communication. In intralingual communication, the redundancy component can help information receivers keep the information channel unchanged and comprehend the real information well under the noise disturbance. However, in interlingual communication, the information sender does not take the receiver's language as the potential one, if the interpreter puts the moderate redundancy of the source language to wholly interpret to the target language, this redundancy part is often difficult to match with the information channel, which influences the success of communication. In the view of the information theory, one of the translation tasks is to adjust the moderate redundancy of the source language and make it adaptable to the information channel of the targeted language receiver, which can ensure the successful communication.

4.3 Classification of Redundancy

There is no fixed standard about how to classify the redundancy, usually, Wu Aihong sorts it into: Phonetic redundancy; Syntactic redundancy; Semantic redundancy; Context redundancy. In language evolution, there are own expressing habits and language conventions in every country of every single language. This paper will show the classification of redundancy in four aspects[4].

(1)Phonetic redundancy. In Chinese, the redundancy phoneme is a large part. For example, the modern Chinese words mostly established with the double syllable, but the meaning of the double syllable generally corresponds to one syllable word; (2) Syntactic redundancy. It mostly refers to the loaded information in a grammatical unit, Chinese language gives much attention to rhyme and meter by repetition and synonymy synthesis to form reduplicating, which is a kind of redundancy; (3) Semantic redundancy indicates that people use extra expressions to recognize the repetition of meaning. Semantic redundancy shows in words and phrases level and displays in the repetition of words and all kinds of semantic relation composed by words, for instance, synonym, homograph, coreferential pronoun, it shows two facets of morphology and semantic repetition; (4) Context redundancy. Interpreting is a special communication behavior for both sides. In the process of communication, thanks to the common cognitive context to communication sides, the mentioned information has been shown again during the communication and then this information can be regarded as the redundancy information. For instance, in the interpreting, speaker mentioned his name or title, we interpreters can omit his title or some mentioned information when it occurs once again [4].

5. Case Analysis

Case analysis is an important part of this practice paper. The author uses information theory and its redundancy theory to analyse the author's interpreting content for the purpose of showing the actual role of theories. This part includes strategies of dealing with redundancy and types of redundancy.

5.1 Strategies of Dealing with Redundancy

Eugene A. Nida, the famous western translator, pointed out: For Chinese and English language, a vital difference in linguistics is the contract of hypotaxis and parataxis. Hypotaxis means the internal connection in a sentence and the connection between sentences by grammatical means of language. Parataxis mainly relies on the internal logic connection in a sentence, which refers to the semantic connection is the key for linking sentences [5].

Simply put, English emphasizes the form and explicit coherence, while Chinese stresses semanteme and covert coherence. This difference between Chinese and English is one of the main factors to produce redundancy. In the process of Chinese-English interpreting, each information system will naturally increase or decrease information leads to understanding obstacle and reduce the efficiency of communication. So, we need to delete or add some information to improve the effectiveness of the communication.

5.1.1 Amplification

Due to differences between these two languages, it is difficult for us to interpret words or sentences completely equivalent in the translation practice. Therefore, we need to add some information into the translation for conveying the original information accurately.

The recording version: The strategy of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road was put forward in the ASEAN.

The revised version: The strategy of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road,which is an expansion of the Land Silk Road, was put forward in the ASEAN.

A lot of people do not know the meaning of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, but know more about the Silk Road in Land. So, the author added a brief introduction about the background of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

The recording version: N11.

The revised version: N11, the Next-11 countries are a new promising economic group.

"N11" is another noun created by Goldman Sachs after "BRIC". "N11" heralds the rise of new powers represented by the emerging market and it will become the theme of the 21st century global economic development, which might surpass the developed market. In order to let the audience grasps the true meaning from the speaker, the interpreter of this report added this information about the N11.

5.1.2 Omission

Omission is to remove incongruent words and phrases of thinking habits and expression ways for the target language, which makes the translation concise and lively. The tautology in Chinese can be omitted.

The recording version: the second and the third question, what kind of effect it will bring? And what feasibility it will be?

The revised version: the second and the third question, effect and feasibility.

The recording version: We all know in 1952, Egypt established a modern republic country.

The revised version: In 1952, Egypt established a modern republic country.

5.2 Types of Redundancy in the Interpreting

During the simultaneous interpreting, the author came across the problem of redundancy. After the interpreting task, the author classified the redundancy into four types in accordance with word's part of speech, such as noun redundancy, verb redundancy, adjective redundancy and adverb redundancy.

5.2.1 Noun Redundancy

There is a large number of category words in Chinese for the purpose of showing the attribute or category of things. Although the meaning of the category words are vague, they are necessary for Chinese expressions and have become our Chinese convention.

The recording version: However, the distance and gap between China, India and the developed countries are actually huge.

The revised version: However, the gap between China, India and the developed countries is actually huge.

5.2.2 Verb Redundancy

Chinese category words are not confined to the noun, they also appear at the verb. Due to differences between Chinese and English, especially for the use of the verb, we need to pay great attention to differences in verb of Chinese and English.

The recording version: It is impossible for them to accomplish the transformation of the whole society overnight.

The revised version: It is impossible for them to transform the whole society overnight.

The author replaces "accomplish the transformation" with "transform", thinking the word of "transform" can convey the meaning to the native English speakers directly.

The recording version: They need to implement the reform of the current situation.

The revised version: They need to reform the current situation.

5.2.3 Adjective Redundancy

In order to strengthen the tone in Chinese, we usually use more adjectives in a sentence. If an interpreter directly translates Chinese into English without considering the distinctions between adjectives of Chinese and English, then the adjective redundancy appears at the version.

The recording version: China becomes the second economic entity now through long lasting and unremitting efforts.

The revised version: China becomes the second economy now through unremitting efforts.

5.2.4 Adverb Redundancy

Adverb redundancy plays the same role of strengthening the tone in Chinese.

The recording version: Trade will also promote growth further.

The revised version: Trade will also promote growth.

The recording version: Non-traditional security issues are particularly prominent.

The revised version: Non-traditional security issues are prominent.

6. Conclusion

Although some unexpected situations occurred in the process of the task, such as unfamiliar and specialized vocabularies, failing to follow the speed of the speaker, physically tired. In general, the effect of translation is good and the author observed the problem of redundancy in Chinese-English simultaneous interpreting and provided some strategies about this problem in this practice paper. The author analyzes strategies of dealing with redundancy problem in accordance with amplification and omission, which can make version concise and smooth.

It should be noticed that omission and amplification are by no means cutting and adding words to the version optionally, the version should adhere to the principle of "faithfulness", namely, be faithful to the original. The version takes out the redundancy information, which makes the version more expressive and close to the original.

Acknowledgements

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