

摘 要

原型理论作为认知语言学的重要组成部分，已经在语言研究领域得到了广泛的运用，但迄今为止鲜有人将它运用到口译相关研究中来。在口译中，词汇作为语言的基本单位，译语词汇选择的恰当与否直接关系到整个口译的质量。

原型理论的引入为理解和翻译词汇提供了一个新的视角。词汇翻译不仅是对同一层次词汇的翻译，而且是对类别层次词汇的翻译，口译员可从认知的角度，以原型理论为理论背景，选择合适的口译方法，贴近最佳原型，以此来达到口译的最佳效果。

本文以模拟会议口译材料为研究案例，将原型理论应用到口译的词汇处理中，并提出三种词汇处理角度，即词汇的同级替代口译、越级口译和补级口译。对于汉英之间可以简单对应的词和对于具有特殊内涵意义的词，从同级替代角度处理；为了使语流流畅或便于读者理解，可以从越级口译角度处理词汇；对于文化负载词等出现英汉对应空缺的词汇，可以从补级口译角度处理。

关键词：原型理论，词汇翻译，交替传译

ABSTRACT

Lexical Processing in Consecutive Interpreting under Prototype Theory: A Practice Report on “China’s Story and Voice on the International Stage under the COVID-19 Pandemic” Mock Conference

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Prototype theory has been widely used in the field of language research as an important part of cognitive linguistics. However, few people have applied it to interpreting-related research so far. In interpreting, vocabulary is the basic unit of language, and the appropriate choice of translation vocabulary is directly related to the quality of the whole interpreting.

The introduction of prototype theory provides a new perspective for understanding and translating vocabulary. Vocabulary translation is not only the translation of words at the same level but also at the category level. Interpreters can take the prototype theory as the theoretical background from the cognitive point of view to choose the appropriate interpreting method and stick close to the best prototype as a way to achieve the best effect of interpreting.

So this report takes mock conference interpreting materials as a research case, applies the prototype theory to the lexical processing of interpretation and proposes three lexical processing perspectives, which are same-level substitution interpreting, trans-level interpreting, and complementary interpreting. For words that can be simply corresponded between Chinese and English and with special connotation, they are

handled from the perspective of same-level substitution interpreting; in order to make the flow of speech smooth or to make listeners easier to understand, the vocabulary can be interpreted from the perspective of trans-level interpreting; for words do not have counterparts in another language, they can be processed in the way of complementary interpreting.

Keywords: prototype theory, lexical translation, consecutive interpreting

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	I
摘 要	II
ABSTRACT	III
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
1.1 Project Background.....	1
1.2 Significance of the Report.....	2
1.3 Report Structure.....	3
Chapter2 Description of Interpreting Project	4
2.1 Project Agenda	4
2.2 Literature Review	7
2.3 Theoretical Basis	11
2.4 Research Method	17
Chapter 3 Analysis of Interpreting Project	18
3.1 Unique Features of the Interpreting Project.....	18
3.2 Difficulties and Challenges.....	19
3.3 Strategies and Improved Translation.....	20
Chapter 4 Conclusion	34
4.1 Summary	34
4.2 Limitations	35
4.3 Suggestions.....	36
REFERENCES	37
APPENDIX Original Text and Content for Interpretation	40
个人简历 在读期间发表的实践报告与学术论文	53

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

The world is currently undergoing momentous changes unseen in a century, yet the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage the world, with cases surging here and there and has accelerated profound and complex changes in the international landscape, bringing new challenges as well as highlighting new opportunities for the economy, culture, environment and various fields. All of this presents formidable challenges to our development.

Under this circumstance, peace and development are the themes of our times. Open, inclusive, mutually beneficial, and win-win multilateral cooperation remains the only path to prosperity and development of human society.

These years, China prioritized people and their lives above all else, protecting their health and safety to the greatest extent feasible, and has made incredibly heartening advancements in both the fight against the pandemic and the advancement of its economy and society. The China's story is deeply rooted in Chinese soil and has the imprint of the unique Chinese land. The Chinese wisdom and the Chinese way, which are condensed therein, are the commonwealth of all mankind.

In this context, on August 14th, 2022, the School of International Studies at UIBE hosted an online mock conference on the theme "China's Story and Voice on the International Stage under the COVID-19 Pandemic" to exchange ideas on the new situation of international cooperation and industrial development under the COVID-19 pandemic and discuss how we can better tell the Chinese story in the new era, new background, and new normal, as well as to amplify China's voice, contribute China's wisdom, and strengthen China's image in the reshaping international community. The mock conference was divided into two sessions, the first session was "China's Story",

and the second session was “China’s Voice”. Students acted as the host, speakers, and interpreters and sixteen speakers expressed their views and suggestions on how to tell the Chinese story well and shared the beautiful Chinese story with their own eyes. The topics were from different walks of life from education, and tourism to the culture, environment, and so on. The whole mock conference was supervised by Professor Yanbin to ensure quality.

1.2 Significance of the Report

D. A. Wilkins (1972), the famous English linguist, once said: “Without grammar, very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary, nothing can be conveyed.” The significance of which seems obvious.

Usually, people think “vocabulary” represents all of the words in a language, but according to Merriam-Webster, vocabulary may indeed refer to the collection of words known by an individual or by a large group of people, and it may also signify the body of specialized terms in a field of study or activity such as “the vocabulary of science”, which are all concluded in this report.

Interpreting, as a special cognitive activity, involves a number of levels in its process, and interpreting vocabulary has its distinctive features. Given that vocabulary is the fundamental building element of language, professionals working in the translation industry have long given careful thought to how to convey words’ meanings. The meaning of vocabulary varies based on the textual context, and its translation reflects the prototype effect. In the first place, prototype theory belongs to cognitive linguistics. Although few researchers have attempted to apply prototype theory in cognitive linguistics to lexical translation, introducing prototype theory into the study of lexical processing helps to better practice interpreting activities.

On top of that, this report attempts to use prototype theory to explore lexical interpreting strategies so as to make up for the shortage of lexical transformation in interpreting. Besides, since this report is based on the author’s own interpreting experience, identifying the challenges that arise during the interpreting process and using the theory to investigate potential solutions is also a practical guide to the author

herself to better perform in the consecutive interpreting process in the future. What's more, the author hopes to give a reference to other student interpreters with lexical-related problems in interpreting and hopes it will provide them with inspiration to solve their problems. In addition, this report will hopefully be informative for the development of the subject of cognitive linguistics and translation by broadening the application area of prototype theory.

1.3 Report Structure

This report includes four chapters. In the first chapter, the author will talk about the background and significance of the report, giving a clue about the current general background at that time, the theme of the mock conference, and some details. In Chapter 2, the author will first give a detailed description of the interpreting project and the work done before, during, and after interpreting, then explain the basic principles, development, and application of prototype theory, introduces the relationship between prototype theory and interpreting and shows that the prototype theory can guide interpreting practice. In Chapter 3, the author will apply prototype theory to the identified difficulties and provides countermeasures to overcome them in order to advance interpreting performance. And the last chapter will be a conclusion, in which the authors will summarize the major findings of this practice, the implications, as well as the limitations and suggestions.

Chapter2 Description of Interpreting Project

2.1 Project Agenda

This interpreting project was organized by Professor Yan Bin and her students to identify interpreting problems and improve interpreting ability in actual practice.

The author joined this mock conference project team on August 4th, 2022, and was determined to accept the interpreting task. The theme of the mock conference was determined on August 10th. During the acceptance stage from August 4th to August 10th, the author first clarified the nature of the assignment: the mock conference interpretation was conducted in the form of consecutive interpretation, and the direction of translation was both English-Chinese and Chinese-English, which means that the mock conference provided interpretation services to both Chinese and foreigners. Also, during this period, the author chose the guiding theory and became knowledgeable about prototype theory, including reading relevant books and articles. On August 10th, the theme of the mock conference was settled as “China’s Story and Voice on the International Stage under the COVID-19 Pandemic”, and the conference would be held on August 14th. On this subject, from August 10th to August 14th, the author prepared the necessary information for the mock conference, anticipated the issues that might be discussed, looked for beneficial information on the official websites of the relevant organizations, and got familiar with the background material. Then, as planned, the mock conference was carried out on August 14th. After the mock conference, the author wrote the proposal report according to the situation of the mock conference and the interpretation problems being found, and constantly revised and improved it from August 15th to September 30th, and finished the whole report in accordance with the proposal report and detailed analysis of cases and sent it to the teacher to be reviewed and improved by the end of March, and finally will complete

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