

Lecture Six




Long sentences (II)

iii. Reversing(倒装)

- 翻译中的倒置不同于语法中的倒装（Inversion），倒置主要是指句子的前后调换问题：一般是将英语长复杂句前置、切断成长短句后，或进行局部调整，或进行总体调整，原则是使汉语译句安排符合习惯表达法，即符合现代汉语论理叙事的一般逻辑顺序，结果译句恰恰是将原句的意思倒着说。

1. 将英语原句全部倒置

- A great number of graduate students were driven into the intellectual slum when in the United States the intellectual poor became the classic poor, the poor under the rather romantic guise of the Beat Generation, a real phenomenon in the late fifties.
- 五十年代后期的美国出现了一个任何人都可能视而不见的现象，穷知识分子以“垮掉的一代”这种颇为浪漫的姿态出现而成为美国的典型的穷人，正是在这个时候，大批大学毕业生被赶进了知识分子贫民窟。





- He had flown in just the day before from Georgia when he had spent his vacation basking(晒太阳) in the Caucasian sun after the completion of the construction job he had been engaged in the south.


- 他本来在南方从事一项建筑工程，任务完成之后，他就上格鲁吉亚去度假，享受高加索的阳光，头一天才坐飞机回来。


部分倒置

- The man in the street scarcely realizes that many forms of business, some major industries, and one or two minor professions could be completely abolished without gravely injuring American society; whereas the disappearance—or even what we see in some quarters, the continuous neglect and degradation—of the teaching profession must mean a disaster to the entire nation.

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- The man in the street scarcely realizes that many forms of business, some major industries, and one or two minor professions could be completely abolished without gravely injuring American society; whereas the disappearance—or even what we see in some quarters, the continuous neglect and degradation—of the teaching profession must mean a disaster to the entire nation.
 - 在美国，许多行业可以完全停业，某些主要工业可以完全废除，一两个次要职业也可以完全取消，而不致于严重影响美国社会；但如果没有教师这一职业，或者像在某些地区那样，教育事业长期未受重视，因而每次愈下，那么就整个国家而言，必将是一场灾难。这一点，一般人是很少认识到的。

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- 在上例中，我们也可用冒号将句子切断如下：
一般人很少认识到.....
 - 在大多数情况下，倒置只是一种手段。翻译手段的取舍标准，在于译文的效果，而不是手段的本身。
 - 用冒号将句子切断的句式，在现代汉语中是常见的。只要安排得当，句子也很自然，因为冒号对下文有提示作用，便于下文承接。同时，它还能顺应英语的表达习惯，但也有不宜采取句首切断的情况。如：

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- Such is human nature in the West that a great many people are often willing to sacrifice higher pay for the privilege of becoming white-collar workers.
 - 许多人常常宁愿牺牲比较高的工资以换取成为白领工人的社会地位，这在西方倒是人之常情。

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- Then, most Americans had little interest in “1,500,000 square kilometers of icebergs and polar bears”—beyond Canada’s western borders, far from the settled areas of the United States.
 - 对（阿拉斯加）这个比邻加拿大西部边境、远离美国已开发地区的“150万平方公里满是冰山和北极熊”的地方，当时大多数美国人根本不感兴趣。

iv .Splitting(拆离)


- 拆离是将长句中的某些成分（句子、词组或词）从句子主干中拆开，另行处理，以利句子的总体安排。英语长句中有某些成分很难用切断式顺译，也难以包孕在句中，可行的办法就是将它们拆开，放在主句之首或末尾，以免造成行文上的梗阻。




1. 拆离单词

An outsider's success could even curiously help the two parties to get the agreement they want.


说来奇怪，一个局外人的成功竟能促使双方达成一项他们希望取得的协议。


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- The number of the young people in the United States who cannot read is incredible—about one in four.
 - 大约有四分之一的美国青年人没有阅读能力，这简直令人难以置信！


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- Jordan cannot politely turn down the invitation to an Arab foreign ministers conference.
 - 约旦若拒绝接受阿拉伯外长会议的邀请，它在礼貌上也说不过去。

2. 拆离词组

- At the opening banquet, Nixon seemed to have paraphrased his host's position by saying, "There are of course some who believe that the mere act of saying a statement of principles or a diplomatic conference will bring lasted peace. This is naïve."
- 尼克松在欢迎宴会上说：“当然，有些人认为只要发表一项原则声明，或举行一次外交会议，就能带来持久和平，这是天真的想法。”他这番话似乎是在阐述东道主国的立场。

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- American prisoners are permitted to receive Red Cross food parcels and write censored letters.
 - 允许美国俘虏接受红十字会的食品包裹，也允许他们写信，不过信要经过检查。


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- With the fear of largely imaginary plots against his leadership, his self-confidence seemed totally to desert him.
 - 由于害怕有人阴谋推翻他的领导地位，他似乎完全丧失了自信，但所谓的阴谋在很大程序上是他自己假想出来的。

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- Some men have been virtuous blindly, others have speculated fantastically, and others have been shrewd to bad purposes.
 - 有些人品行端正，却趋于盲目；有些人勤于思考，却脱离现实；有些人非常精明，却不走正道。



3. 拆离从句


- This land, which once barred the way of weary travelers, now has become a land for winter and summer vacations, a land of magic and wonder.
- 这个地方现在已经成了冬夏两季的休假胜地，风光景物，蔚为奇观；而从前精疲力竭的游客都只能到此止步。


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- The very important oil industry, which has done much to rejuvenate the economy of the South since the end of world war II, made considerable headway especially in the five states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas.
 - 第二次世界大战以后，石油工业对振兴南部经济起了很大的作用。这个十分重要的工业部门特别是在阿肯色、路易斯安那、密西西比、俄克拉荷马和得克萨斯等五个州取得了很大进展。




v. Inserting (插入)

- “插入”是利用破折号、括号或前后逗号将难以处理的句子成分插入译句中。英语原文中的破折句和括号成分大体都可以顺译成汉语的对应句式。这样做的好处是可以适当保存原文风貌。翻译时也较便当，不致产生疏漏。
- 破折号用于表示语流的中断、转折或跃进，也可以用于对文中的某一部分进行注释说明。括号一般用于解释语意、补充说明、交代某一事实或引语的出处等等。但在实际翻译中应注意以下几点：


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- 1. 英语书面语插入成分可以很长，但译文中的插入成分不宜太长，否则可能形成句子主干成分隔断过远，这不符合汉语习惯。
 - 2. 注意插入的位置：插入部分一般须尽量紧接注释、补充的部分，不可拘泥于与原文在形式上的对应。
 - 3. 总而言之，破折句和带括号的句式在现代汉语中不如英语中那样普遍。插入式只是一种不得已的变通手段，在段落翻译中不宜多用。


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- On this and succeeding days, during which our anticraft guns were doubled in numbers, very hard and continuous air fighting took place over the capital.
 - 在当天和随后几天里（我们的高射炮在这几天增加了一倍），首都上空发生了连续不断的激烈空战。


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- In 1582 Richard Mulcaster, one of the earliest English grammarians who paid attention to this problem, wrote “the English tongue is of small reach, stretching no further than this island of ours (England), nay, not there over all.
 - 1582年，理查德·迈尔卡斯特——最早注意到这个问题的英语语法学家之一——写道：“英语的流行范围很小，充其量只在我们这个英格兰岛——甚至并没有遍及全岛。”

vi. Recasting(重组)

- 重组就是将英语长句结构完全理清，将原意完全弄懂以后按汉语叙事论理的习惯重新组织句子，基本上脱离了原句的层次和结构安排。
- 重组的好处是：由于彻底摆脱了原文语序和句子形式的约束，因此比较易于做到汉语行文流畅自然，一气呵成。其缺陷在于：新手不易掌握，因为译者不得不完全摆脱原文，故而疏漏极易发生，原文的轻重，分寸及语气也极易被忽略。

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- In the doorway lay at least twelve umbrellas of all sizes and colors.
 - 门口放着一堆雨伞，少说也有十二把，五颜六色，大小不一。


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- The poor are the first to experience technological progress as a curse which destroys the old muscle-power jobs that previous generations used as a means to fight their way out of poverty.
 - 对于以往的几代人来说，旧式的体力劳动是一种用以摆脱贫困的手段，而技术的进步则摧毁了穷人赖以生存的体力劳动。因此，首先体验到技术进步之害的是穷人。

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- 以上介绍的几种长句难句翻译法，在翻译实际中往往需要加以综合运用，其中最基本的技法是包孕和切断，学习者必须悉心体会，勤于实践如何恰到好处地运用包孕特别是切断法，并巧妙地辅以其他的长句翻译手段，把长句、难句这个消极因素化为锻炼自己笔力的积极因素。




Exercises


1. Americans who would be patriots must try to learn what it is that they have in common, what it is in the republic that is worth cherishing and preserving; until they know that, their patriotism will have no more content than a bright, loud afternoon parade.



2. There are several reasons why Kissinger no longer appears to be the magician the world press had made him out to be, an illusion which he failed to discourage because, as he would admit himself, he has a tendency towards megalomania.




3. But without Adolph Hitler, who was possessed of a demoniac personality, a granite will, uncanny instincts, a cold ruthlessness, a remarkable intellect, a soaring imagination and—until toward the end, when drunk with power and success, he overreached himself—an amazing capacity to size up people and situations, there almost certainly would never have been a Third Reich.




1. Americans who would be patriots must try to learn what it is that they have in common, what it is in the republic that is worth cherishing and preserving; until they know that, their patriotism will have no more content than a bright, loud afternoon parade.

- 美国人如果想要成为真正的爱国之士，就必须努力探他们之间的共同之处，努力探求在这个国度里值得珍惜和恪守不渝的究竟是什么。如果他们办不到这一点，那么，他们的所谓爱国热情充其量只是一次午后游行：炫耀一番，喧闹一场而已。（Cutting / Splitting / Preposition）



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- 全世界曾经把基辛格渲染成魔术师一般的人物，他也没有阻止人们制造这种假象，因为他自己也承认有一种自大狂的倾向。现在他不再像是这样一种人物了，这里有几个原因。
(Cutting / Embedding / Reversing / Recasting)



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- 然而，如果没有阿道夫·希特勒，那就几乎可以肯定不会有第三帝国，因为阿道夫·希特勒有着恶魔般的性格，花岗岩般的意志，不可思议的本能，冷酷无情的心肠，超乎寻常的智慧，丰富的想象力以及对人和局势的惊人的判断力。这种判断力最后由于权力和胜利冲昏了头脑而不自量力，终于弄巧成拙。