The Application of Hypotaxis and Parataxis in the C-E Translation of the *China Emerging: 1978-2008*

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One of the most significant discrepancies between English and Chinese is hypotaxis and parataxis. English is prone to hypotaxis, stressing the integrity of sentence structures, while Chinese has a tendency to parataxis, emphasizing the expression of internal logic. In order to achieve the purpose and effect of translation, the author compares Chinese and English versions of the *China Emerging: 1978-2008* and chooses specific examples to explore conversion strategy from parataxis to hypotaxis from vocabulary, syntax, and sentence structure, expecting to provide reference for the related translation practices.

Keywords: hypotaxis, parataxis, *China Emerging: 1978-2008*, conversion strategy

Introduction

The contrast between hypotaxis and parataxis in Chinese-English translation is the focus of translation studies. Many scholars have discussed hypotaxis and parataxis from different levels and angles. Eugene Nida (1982) pointed out in his book *Translating Meaning* that the most striking difference between Chinese and English is hypotaxis and parataxis from the linguistic point of view. In addition, Zhou Zhipei holds the view that parataxis is the main feature of Chinese while hypotaxis is the main feature of English, which are the essential differences between Chinese and English (Zhou, 2003, p. 33). Therefore, a comparative study of the two languages will assist us in better understanding the nature of the two languages. By analyzing the different characteristics of hypotaxis and parataxis in English and Chinese, we can flexibly master the mutual transformation skills of them, which is conducive to using these skills to deal with different types of translation.

China Emerging: 1978-2008 written by Wu Xiaobo, a distinguished Chinese financial writer, describes those upheavals and that have processed over the years from 1978 to 2008 in China, representing a remarkable achievement in condensing a welter of events, and enabling us to have further understanding of Chinese history and experience the huge power of reform. It is a highly condensed version of the turbulent past 30 years. In the eyes of westerners, the great changes in China remain a mystery. How to lead an agricultural country with such a huge population towards modernization is a thorny undertaking, and it's tough for us to imagine how rigorous the exploration it is. Through this book, you will notice a more realistic and vibrant China, experiencing the destiny of an ancient nation that has made persistent efforts to become stronger and forged ahead against the tide. Besides, the words and sentences in this book are also rich and ornate, which are worth researching deeply.

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Previous Studies on Hypotaxis and Parataxis

To apply the theory of hypotaxis and parataxis, we should first understand the meaning of them. In fact, many domestic scholars have given the concrete definitions of them. Lian Shuneng explained in his *Contrastive Study of English and Chinese* that hypotaxis is the expression of grammatical meaning and logical relations by connecting words or clauses in sentences through linguistic means; on the other hand, parataxis means that words or clauses are connected without linguistic means to express grammatical meaning and logical relations in sentences through semantic forms (Lian, 1993, p. 48). So Lian Shuneng defines explicit and implicit means of language connection.

Zhou Zhipei defined hypotaxis as expressing the relationship between words, clauses, and sentences by means of morphological and formal words. Parataxis is defined as a connection realized by the coherence and logical order of the words and sentences themselves without the help of morphological or formal words. Therefore, hypotaxis focuses on the explicit connection while parataxis attaches great significance to implicit coherence (Zhou, 2003, p. 34). To sum up, we can find that there are various definitions of hypotaxis and parataxis. In short, hypotaxis is connecting sentences or words through linguistic forms; parataxis refers to connecting words or sentences by logical relations.

The theory of hypotaxis and parataxis has been widely used in translation strategies, like English-Chinese translation, syntactic structure, contrastive study, translation methods, and modes of thinking. Shi Weixuan and Zhao Na (2009) took hypotaxis and parataxis cooperation as the starting point to make a comparative analysis between Chinese and English. They explained that English is prone to hypotaxis from the aspects of word order, idioms, and contraction sentences, while Chinese is prone to parataxis from the aspects of formal means connection, non-predicate verbs, prepositions, and transformation of part of speech. Wang Dalai (2009) analyzed the differences of sentence structures between Chinese and English and explored the conversion strategy between Chinese diffusive sentences and English compact sentences. Luo Hong (2019) compared the two versions *Of Studies* in English and Chinese, and dialectically analyzed the features of hypotaxis and parataxis in English and Chinese from the aspects of the use of function words, ellipsis and repetition, and sentence structures.

Conversion Strategy From Parataxis to Hypotaxis

Transferring on Lexical Patterns

Use of prepositions. Chinese is destitute of prepositions. Instead, it harnesses copious verbs. There are about 286 prepositions in English, which is enough to show their significance. Examples are as follow:

Example 1: 国营企业存款和财政存款之和为1089.9亿元，占银行存款总额的83.8%。

The country's total reserves were equal to RMB 108.99 billion, including those of the state-owned enterprises and the central treasury. All this was deposited in one bank, comprising 83.8% of the country's money.

We can see that translated version takes advantage of prepositional phrases like "be equal to", "those of", and "in one bank" to combine the constituents. By contrast, the original text seldom uses prepositions. Instead, they are merely separate short sentences.

Translation of four-character constructions. Four-character structures are common in Chinese, some of which are complex in meaning, short in words but rich in connotation, and read with a sense of rhythm, which

plays an important role. Therefore, when we translate these constructions into English, in most cases, we must use free translation instead of literal translation; otherwise it is difficult to express the real meaning.

Example 2: 随着中国国门的打开，外国资本闻风而来。

In August 1978, the First Machinery Industry Ministry in charge of the automobile industry in China issued telegrams inviting General Motors, Ford, Toyota, Nissan, Renault, Citroen, Mercedes Benz, Volkswagen, and others to China, hoping that they would rush to investigate the "China market".

Four-character construction is employed in this sentence, which makes it full of sense of rhythm. Free translation strategy has been employed to present its connotation.

Transferring on Syntactical Patterns

Employment of relatives. Relative pronouns and relative adverbs are destitute in Chinese but they are abundant in English. Therefore, when we do Chinese-English translation, relatives are capable of being frequently used to turn Chinese paratactical sentences into English hypotactical sentences. Here are the examples.

Example 3: 虽然是用改变过的形式，转交给社会。

It merely requires that the form of land use is changed in a way that continues to transmit the benefits to society.

The first "that" is used to introduce object clause. Additionally, the translator turns the latter part of the original text into the attributive clause which is introduced by the second "that".

Employment of conjunctions. English emphasizes the completeness of form because it is a morphological language. Conjunctions are essential in English sentence patterns. The extensive use of conjunctions in English fully reflects the completeness and rigor of English grammatical forms, showing that English is more inclined to hypotaxis. From the English translations, we can find that a large number of conjunctions are used to maintain the coherence of the text.

Example 4: 雇工到了8个就不是普通的个体经济，而是资本主义经济，是剥削。

An employer hires more than eight persons; he can no longer be considered as a small enterprise but instead should be thought of as someone who is exploiting the masses.

The original sentence contains a relation of transition. When it is translated into English, the conjunction "but" is harnessed to show this relation.

The Conversion of Sentence Structure

Subjects in Chinese do not have to be nominal, but can be a time, place, manner, etc. In a considerable of sentences, these components are called as topic. This kind of topic with the rest of the components constitutes the topic—comment structure. Subject in English is an indispensable core, and subject-verb mechanism is formed by it. In other words, it is utilized to lead the whole sentence (Chen, 1992, p. 51). English has five basic structures, all of which are centered on the subject-verb mechanism. Unlike English, Chinese sentences are more complex, and their subjects have a variety of forms, but are often ignored. Therefore, in Chinese-English translation, subject-predicate mechanism should correspond in form.

Example 5: 1993年8月，德国斯图加特体育场一片沸腾，中国运动员一句囊括了第四届世界田径锦标赛女子1500米金牌，3000米金，银，铜牌和10000米金牌，并打破两项世锦赛记录。

Chinese athletes broke two world records in 1993 and won a number of gold, bronze, and silver medals at the World Championships in Athletics, held in Stuttgart, Germany.

This sentence is loose but the subject and predicate are exceedingly distinct. The subject of this sentence is "Chinese athletes", and the predicates are "won" and "broke". The Chinese sentence puts the end weight in the latter part whereas the translated English sentence directly employs the subject-predicate mechanism.

From the above examples, it's not difficult for us to find out that Chinese stresses parataxis, so the sentence structure is loose, and logic is implicit, while English emphasizes hypotaxis, and its sentence structure is complete. Hence, when we do Chinese-English translation, we can take more use of prepositions, conjunctions, relations, and so on. Besides, strategies of translating the connotation of the four-character words, and transformation of logic to conform to English habits are also essential.

Conclusion

China, with its increasing comprehensive national strength, has attracted more attention from the international world. This book is instrumental in understanding the development of China after 30 years of reform and opening up. It is necessary to be familiar with the differences between English and Chinese and be careful and accurate in translation. The theory of hypotaxis and parataxis is conducive to better exploring the differences between the two languages and provides theoretical guidance for Chinese-English translation. When we do the translation between the two languages, we should not only understand the differences in syntax, but also adapt to the habits and characteristics of the target language to maximize the reproduction of the spirit of the original text in order to achieve the purpose of cross-cultural communication.

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