

# Study on the Cultivation Path of Translation Talents for Water Industry

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**Abstract:** China's water industry's increasing international cooperation calls for more translation talents in the field. This paper probes into cultivating translation talents for water industry, and puts forward some suggestions on the cultivation path, namely, optimizing the cultivation curriculum, enriching the courses, strengthening translation practice, improving the teaching staff, and establishing evaluation system. It is of great significance in strengthening international cooperation of China's water industry, and promoting China's water industry's voice.

**Keywords:** Water Industry; Students Cultivation; Translation Practice.

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## 1. Introduction

In recent years, China's water conservancy industry international exchanges and cooperation gradually increased, the pace of going out of the water conservancy industry is gradually accelerating, requiring a large number of both professional knowledge of water conservancy and the ability to translate the composite talents. Cultivating translation talents in the water conservancy industry is of great significance to the development of China's water conservancy industry. There is a slight lack of research on this in the current academic community. This paper intends to take the cultivation of English translation talents of North China University of Water Resource and Electric power as an example to explore the effective mode of cultivating translation talents in the water conservancy industry.

## 2. The Significance of the Training of Translation Personnel in the Water Conservancy Industry

Cultivating translation talents in the water conservancy industry is a need to strengthen international cooperation in China's water conservancy industry and to promote the international dissemination of China's water conservancy voice.

### 2.1. International Cooperation in China's Water Conservancy Industry Requires High-End Translation Talents.

As China's comprehensive national strength continues to improve, the construction of the "Belt and Road" has entered a new stage of comprehensive advancement. The Central Committee emphasized the need to "strengthen international exchanges and cooperation in water resources" [1]. With the gradual increase of China's water conservancy industry participating in international water conservancy exchanges and cooperation projects, the demand for high-end translators in the water conservancy industry is also increasing [2-3]. Moreover, the technical level of translators in the water conservancy industry will directly affect the quality and effect of international exchanges and cooperation in the water conservancy industry. Therefore, cultivating more and more high-end translation talents in water conservancy industry is

the urgent need to deepen international cooperation in China's water conservancy industry.

Cultivating compound talents with both knowledge of water conservancy industry and translation ability is of great significance for strengthening international cooperation in China's water conservancy industry.

### 2.2. High-end Translation Talents Needed for International Dissemination of China's Water Conservancy Voices

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as its core has attached great importance to water conservancy work and issued a series of water conservancy voices with Chinese characteristics. For example, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized the need to pay more attention to "comprehensive governance, systematic governance, source governance", in accordance with the "water conservation priority, spatial balance, systematic governance, two-handed force" approach to water management, adhere to the "upstream and downstream, dry tributaries, the left and right coasts of the overall planning, a common grasp of the protection of the big, synergistic promotion of the big governance" [4]. Minister E Jingping proposed that the main contradiction of water management in China has been transformed from the contradiction between the people's demand for removing water hazards and water conservancy and the lack of water conservancy project capacity to the contradiction between the people's demand for water resources, water ecology and water environment and the lack of water conservancy industry regulatory capacity [5]. The national water conservancy work conference identified "loyalty, cleanliness, responsibility, science, pragmatism, innovation" of the new era of water conservancy spirit [6]. Such a viewpoint is the voice of water conservancy with Chinese characteristics, which has been gradually condensed by our people in the management of water and the development of water.

In today's world of water scarcity, serious water problems and frequent water disasters, how to efficiently spread the voice of China's water conservancy, contribute to the world's water conservancy with the wisdom of China's water conservancy experience, and tell the story of China's water conservancy and spread the voice of China's water conservancy is an important topic that needs to be studied

urgently. The international dissemination of China's water conservancy voice requires high-end translators with both water conservancy expertise and translation capabilities. Cultivating high-end composite translation talents who are well versed in China's water conservancy policy, water conservancy achievements and water conservancy voices, as well as having translation skills, will help promote the international dissemination of China's water conservancy voices. Cultivating translators for the water conservancy industry is an inevitable requirement for the development of China's water conservancy industry to a certain stage, China's water conservancy international exchanges and cooperation needs high-end translation talents, The international dissemination of China's water conservancy voice also requires high-end translation talents. However, the current status of the training of translation personnel in China's water conservancy industry is not optimistic.

### 3. Literature Review

The search found that as far as the cultivation of high-end translation talents in the water conservancy industry is concerned, the cultivation of foreign language talents in water conservancy at the undergraduate level and postgraduate level has received attention from the academic community.

Liu Guilian and Chu Xingjun wrote articles discussing the cultivation of foreign language talents in water conservancy at the undergraduate level. Combined with the actuality of Nanchang Engineering College, Liu Guilian put forward the cultivation path of engineering translation talents in water conservancy industry. It mainly includes: building a curriculum system based on the coordinated development of knowledge, quality and ability, creating a practical teaching environment for engineering translation that focuses on the unity of knowledge and practice, building a teaching team for engineering translation in the water conservancy industry, and establishing an assessment system that integrates teaching and assessment, etc. [7]. Chu Xingjun discussed the cultivation mode of North China University of Water Conservancy and Hydropower in the cultivation mode of compound English talents with water conservancy characteristics from the aspects of curriculum setting, practice and employment [8]. For example, in terms of curriculum, North China University of Water Resource and Electric power offers courses such as English for Water Conservancy, FIDIC Terms, Introduction to Chinese and Foreign Water Cultures, and Theory and Practice of Translation, in which topics such as foreign business in the water conservancy industry, English translation skills for water conservancy and English application writing for the water conservancy industry are added to the curriculum [8]. In terms of practical employment, North China University of Water Resources and Electric power cooperates with water conservancy enterprises, real-time understanding of the water conservancy industry related to foreign work demand, to provide students with many internships at the same time, to invite a large number of water conservancy enterprises and institutions into the campus, held a special recruitment, to provide as much as possible the water conservancy industry related to foreign work positions. These scholars' discussions are more focused on the curriculum, practical employment, teaching team, assessment system, etc., which have certain reference value.

In the cultivation of foreign language talents in water conservancy at the postgraduate level, Chu Xingjun believes that it is not only feasible but also promising to cultivate a

master's degree in translation in the direction of English for water conservancy, but there are still many challenges to be faced in the construction of faculty, compilation of teaching materials and cultivation mode [9]. Cao Shenghua, on the basis of analyzing the problems existing in the cultivation of talents for master's degree in translation (MTI) in the early stage, combines the characteristics of water conservancy with the cultivation of innovative talents for MTI and puts forward the concept of innovating talents cultivation, clarifying the objectives of talents cultivation, adjusting the curricular setting, innovating the classroom teaching mode, improving the overall quality of teachers, creating a first-class teaching team and broadening the channels of university-enterprise cooperation in innovative talents cultivation, etc., which has achieved better results[10]. These scholars have identified problems and solved them in their teaching practice, and the strategic approaches they have proposed are worth learning from.

Through combing, we found that only some teachers from Nanchang Engineering College and North China University of Water Conservancy and Hydropower have written articles to discuss the cultivation of foreign language talents in water conservancy at the undergraduate level, and only some teachers from North China University of Water Resource and Electric Power have written articles to discuss the cultivation of foreign language talents in water conservancy at the postgraduate level, and the relevant discussions need to be further carried out in the aspects of depth and breadth. Although North China University of Water Resources and Electric power has both undergraduate and postgraduate level research on the cultivation of foreign language talents in water conservancy, the previous research has not yet been coherently integrated, and there is a lack of research on the cultivation of foreign language talents in water conservancy that covers both undergraduate and postgraduate levels in a coherent way.

Based on the above, this paper intends to take the English translator training of North China University of Water Conservancy and Hydroelectric Power as an example to explore the coherent water conservancy industry translator training mode at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, so as to realise the cultivation goal of the industry's translators and serve the development of China's water conservancy industry.

### 4. Cultivation Mode of Translation Personnel in the Water Conservancy Industry

Translators in the water conservancy industry are compound talents with both professional knowledge of water conservancy and translation ability. This defines its cultivation goal as: to cultivate senior applied talents who master basic water conservancy engineering knowledge, master translation theory, are familiar with Chinese and Western cultures, have solid English comprehensive application ability, and master multi-language interpreting and translating skills and consecutive interpreting skills [7].

As a water conservancy industry institution with a history of more than 70 years, North China University of Water Resource and Electric power has opened a number of related majors featuring water conservancy. The School of Foreign Languages (referred to as the School) closely focuses on the "One Belt, One Road" initiative and the major strategies of

ecological protection and high-quality development of the Yellow River Basin, serves the needs of the national, regional and industrial development, and relies on the platforms of the National Education Base of Water Situation, the Research Center for the Foreign Translation and Communication of the Yellow River Ecological Civilization of Henan Province, and the Research Center of Water Culture. water conservancy and hydropower characteristic advantages, to explore the training mode of translation talents in water conservancy industry from the following aspects:

#### **4.1. Tracking the Needs of the Industry and Optimizing the Training Programme**

Cultivation programme is the basis for the implementation of professional talent cultivation. In the process of revising the talent training programme for translation majors, the College actively connects with the water conservancy industry, extensively researches the demand for talents in the industry, and invites experts in the industry to participate in formulating the training programme and guiding the practical teaching. On this basis, the college optimizes the talent cultivation programme and adjusts the curriculum. In addition to the courses of English for Water Conservancy, FIDIC Clauses, Introduction to Chinese and Foreign Water Cultures and Translation Theory and Practice, the college adds the course of Professional Ethics to the compulsory public courses, the courses of Non-literary Translation and Comparative Analysis of Parallel Corpus to the basic theory courses, and the courses of Engineering and Technical English and Text Composition to the elective professional courses. Text Writing" and other related courses have been added to the professional elective courses.

#### **4.2. Strengthening the Curriculum and Highlighting the Characteristics of Water Conservancy**

The cultivation programme is supported by the curriculum. The College strengthens the curriculum construction in two aspects, namely, water conservancy and translation, to highlight the characteristics of the water conservancy industry:

##### **1. Construction of water resource courses**

On the one hand, the construction of water conservancy industry course group. In addition to the above mentioned courses such as "English for Water Resources", "FIDIC Clause", "Introduction to Chinese and Foreign Water Culture", the college also offers courses such as "Introduction to Water Conservancy and Hydroelectric Engineering", "Reading and Translation of English for Water Conservancy and Hydroelectricity" at the undergraduate level, and "Reading of English for Water and Electricity Engineering" and "Translation of English for Water and Electricity Engineering" in addition to the courses at the graduate level. Making full use of the advantages of our university's water conservancy characteristics, with rich water conservancy engineering materials as the main material, professional teaching materials are written by professional teachers and taught by professional teachers of water conservancy, so that the students can have an overall understanding of the types of water conservancy engineering, basic composition, structure and related technical knowledge of water conservancy engineering, and make up for the lack of students' professional knowledge in water conservancy.

On the other hand, contemporary cutting-edge technology is adopted. The college combines virtual reality technology

with engineering practice resources and internship bases, etc. to build a virtual simulation teaching platform for water conservancy English. The platform simulates real water conservancy engineering projects, providing students with a highly immersive water conservancy engineering professional English application and learning environment. Students enter the scene with the role of visitors to learn and practice with high interest, which not only solves the problems of traditional teaching that focuses on theory but not practice and low student participation, but also solves the problems of low teaching cost efficiency and unsatisfactory teaching effect.

##### **2. Construction of translation courses**

On the one hand, traditional translation courses are strengthened. The college integrates water conservancy industry materials into traditional translation courses such as *Basic Interpretation*, *Advanced Interpretation*, *Chinese-English Translation*, *English-Chinese Translation*, etc., combining the basic translation skill training with water conservancy industry materials, so as to achieve the purpose of compatibility and common improvement between the two.

On the other hand, it adds translation technology courses and translation practice courses. The college increases *the Computer-Aided Translation* at the undergraduate level, and adds the courses of translation technology such as *Parallel Corpus Comparative Analysis*, *Computer-Aided Translation*, *Translation Industry Standards and Criteria*, *Translation Project Management*, *Translation and Localisation*, etc. at the postgraduate level, and at the same time, adds *the Advanced English-Chinese Translation*, *Advanced Chinese-English Translation*, *Non-literary Translation*, *Translation of English for Hydropower Engineering (English to Chinese)*, *Translation of English for Hydropower Engineering (Chinese to English)*, *Translation of English for Hydropower Engineering (Chinese to English)*. *English Translation (Chinese to English) for Hydropower Engineering*", *"Literary Translation"*, *"Translation of Chinese Cultural Classics"*, *"CATTI Translation Practice"* and other translation practice courses. These translation technology courses and translation practice courses ensure that students master translation theory and translation skills, which are of great significance to large-scale water conservancy industry literature translation, team-based water conservancy industry project translation, water conservancy industry software translation, water conservancy industry website translation, multimedia translation such as picture and video translation, and translation of water conservancy industry documents in special formats (e.g., water conservancy project CAD drawings, water conservancy enterprise help files). The college has built a computer-aided translation laboratory and a computer-aided translation laboratory. The college has built a computer-aided translation laboratory and a simultaneous interpretation laboratory, equipped with relevant servers and client software, which can meet the teaching and practice needs of translation technology courses and practical courses.

#### **4.3. Strengthening Translation Practice and Enhancing Translation Ability**

Theory must be combined with practice. The College strengthens students' translation practice ability in the following aspects:

##### **1. Curriculum includes translation practice**

In order to highlight the practice orientation and the characteristics of water conservancy, the college includes a lot

of translation practice in the curriculum, as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Curriculum of the Master of Translation Degree Programme

Course Type	Major Programmes
translation theory	Introduction to Translation Brief History of Chinese and Foreign Translation Translation Theory and Techniques
Translation techniques	Comparative analysis of parallel corpora Computer-aided translation Translation industry standards and norms Translation Project Management Translation and Localisation
Translation practice	Advanced English-Chinese Translation Advanced Chinese-English Translation Non-literary Translation English Translation for Hydropower Engineering (English to Chinese) English Translation for Hydropower Engineering (Chinese to English) Literary Translation Translation of Chinese Cultural Texts CATTI Translation Practice, etc.
major	Introduction to Hydropower Engineering English Reading for Hydropower Engineering Engineering Technical English Text Writing, etc.
language and culture	Chinese Language and Culture Cross-cultural communication, etc.

Translation master's degree courses can be roughly divided into five categories: translation theory, translation technology, translation practice, specialty and language and culture. Among them, translation theory courses account for a relatively small proportion, while practical courses such as translation technology, translation practice and professional courses account for a relatively large proportion, reflecting the practice-oriented and hydraulic characteristics. In addition, students are required to complete a 150,000-word translation and submit a translation practice report in the translation practice session, which also aims to strengthen translation practice.

### 2. Subject competitions drive translation practice

The importance of disciplinary competitions to talent cultivation is widely recognized. The College has taken active measures to encourage students to participate in various translation disciplinary competitions nationwide (such as Han Suyin International Translation Competition, Ruyi Cup, Shangdian Cup, Foreign Affairs and Diplomatic Translation Competition, etc.) by taking the competitions as the driving force, with teachers as the auxiliary, and students as the leading force, so as to stimulate students to engage in the translation practice, and to improve the level of translation practice.

### 3. CATTI Certificate Guides Translation Practice

CATTI is a national professional qualification examination, which has the important role of translation professional qualification certification and translation ability evaluation [11]. The college offers the course *CATTI Translation Practice* at the graduate level, taking the CATTI Level 2 Translation Competency Requirements as the standard, taking the CATTI certificate as the orientation, and adopting flexible and diversified ways to improve students' translation practice ability.

### 4. Translation practice under the guidance of an off-

### campus tutor

The College has implemented a dual tutoring system combining off-campus tutors and on-campus tutors. Off-campus tutors are persons who have experience in the water conservancy and hydropower industry or practical experience in translation and have senior professional and technical positions. The off-campus tutors rely on their own rich translation practice experience and translation resources to guide the students, which is more advantageous than the on-campus tutors.

### 5. School-enterprise cooperation enriches translation practice

Making full use of the advantages of water conservancy characteristics and geographical advantages, the College has established school-enterprise cooperation with a number of organizations (such as Henan New Oriental Translation Company Limited, Zhengzhou Translation Line Translation Company Limited, Zhengzhou Cloud Translation Way, Translating Country Translating People, International Cooperation and Science and Technology Bureau of the Yellow River Water Conservancy Commission, and China Water Conservancy & Electricity Power Company, etc.) to build translation practice and internship bases together. Students enter the bases for internship, familiarize themselves with the duties and responsibilities of the posts, complete the work of the posts, encounter and solve various translation problems in the real environment, and rapidly improve their translation level.

### 6. Teaching and scientific research promote translation practice

The College closely combines translation practice with teaching and research, and promotes translation practice with teaching and research. With the support of the soft science project of Henan Province and the project of the Department of Education of Henan Province, the college organizes teachers and students to build a translation corpus for the water conservancy industry. From putting forward the idea, sorting out the literature, determining the principles, selecting the sources, starting the implementation, etc., teachers and students practiced together, and initially built a bilingual terminology database of water conservancy in English-Chinese-English, and initially built an English corpus of the water conservancy industry [12]. This translation practice also produces a number of papers and is integrated into *Comparative Analysis of Parallel Corpora* in various forms, which truly promotes teaching and research and translation practice.

### 4.4. Strengthening the Faculty and Forming Teaching Teams

Teachers are the key to talent cultivation [13]. The college has taken a series of measures to strengthen the construction of faculty and to create a first-class teaching team.

#### 1. Cohesion of translation team

The college has established a high-level research platform to gather translation teams. Under the support of the *Translation of Henan* project, the Research Center for Translation and Communication of Yellow River Ecological Civilization of Henan Province was established in the college. Relying on this research center, the college has gathered a translation team covering English, Russian, Japanese, French, Korean, Spanish and other languages, translated and published works such as *Red Flag Canal* and *Grand Canal*, and translated and published seven foreign specialized books

on water conservancy, meanwhile, it has translated a large number of water conservancy-related materials, and compiled and published teaching materials such as *English for Water Resources*, etc., and now it has formed a translation team which mainly focuses on English, and is featured by water conservancy. At present, a team of translators has been formed with English as the main language and water conservancy as the specialty.

### 2. Introduction of excellent teachers

The college actively strives for relevant policy support and flexibly introduces excellent teachers. On the one hand, it selects excellent talents from water conservancy enterprises and industrial translation companies, appoints them as external tutors, and regularly teaches and guides students in the college. On the other hand, we attract subject leaders or academic leaders with the title of professor and doctoral degree to work in the college to enhance the overall strength. On the other hand, excellent doctoral students are introduced from famous universities at home and abroad to enrich the faculty.

### 3. Cultivating professional backbones

The college cultivates professional backbone teachers through various methods. On the one hand, through a series of policies such as *Measures for the Implementation of Further Training* and *Measures for the Enhancement of Translation Practical Ability and Translation Teaching Ability*, the College encourages teachers to take the initiative to go out, update their theoretical knowledge of translation, and enhance their translation teaching ability and translation practical ability. On the other hand, the school invites well-known experts and scholars from organizations such as China Translation Association, Foreign Research Service, *Shanghai Translation* and other industries to carry out translation teacher training in the school, so that the translation ability, teaching ability and professional quality of the backbone teachers have been significantly improved. On the other hand, the college encourages teachers to accumulate and summarize translation experience and realize self-improvement by undertaking scientific research projects, translating books, undertaking commissioned translations and preparing for the CATTI certificate.

## 4.5. Establishing an Assessment System to Ensure the Quality of Training

Assessment is an important means to ensure the quality of talent training. In the process of cultivating water conservancy interpreters, the college adopts diversified assessment methods, and establishes a scientific and reasonable assessment system from various aspects such as assessment subjects and assessment contents. On the one hand, it adopts the combination of students' self-assessment, students' mutual assessment, teachers' assessment and employers' assessment to realize the diversification of assessment subjects. On the other hand, the evaluation content is diversified by referring to the comprehensive evaluation including attendance, students' independent learning on the course learning platform, active speech, homework submission, course summary, translation practice, and scientific research projects. In addition, the college combines individual evaluation with group evaluation, and combines formative evaluation with summative evaluation, covering all aspects of talent cultivation, to ensure the cultivation of excellent translators in the water conservancy industry.

## 5. Conclusion

Talent cultivation program should be oriented to the needs of the industry, through close cooperation with the water conservancy industry, closely follow the needs of the water conservancy industry to optimize the cultivation program, which is the basis for the cultivation of translation talents in the water conservancy industry. On the basis of the cultivation program, the curriculum system is constructed closely with the water conservancy characteristics of the school, highlighting the water conservancy industry characteristics of talent cultivation. On the basis of water conservancy characteristics, we strengthen translation practice through curriculum, disciplinary competitions, CATTI certificates, off-campus tutors, school-enterprise cooperation, teaching and research, etc., focusing on cultivating students' practical ability of translation in water conservancy industry. In order to achieve the above goals, measures such as building high-end platforms and combining introduction and cultivation are taken to strengthen the faculty and build an efficient teaching team. To establish an operable and diversified talent training assessment system to ensure the quality of the training of translation talents in water conservancy industry. These five aspects together constitute the training mode of translation talents in water conservancy industry.

The research on this topic is of great significance for strengthening international cooperation in China's water conservancy industry and promoting the international dissemination of China's water conservancy voice. The translation talent training model of water conservancy industry discussed in this paper has certain replicability and transferability within a certain range. On the one hand, it is hoped that by throwing bricks to attract jade, it can provide cases for reference in the training of translation talents in the industry and trigger more and better research and practice in the academic circles; on the other hand, it is also hoped that it can get criticisms and suggestions from the educational administrative departments, sister colleges and universities and the academic circles, so as to improve and perfect it and cultivate more translators for China's water conservancy industry.

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