

The English Translation of Energy Texts from the Perspective of Discourse Cohesion Theory

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Abstract: This paper investigates the unique features and translation complexities of energy-related texts through the lens of Discourse Cohesion Theory. To enhance the English translation of such texts, it is crucial to address key elements including cohesive paragraphs, main body, conclusion, cohesive sentences, as well as the judicious use of modifiers and phrases. Additionally, meticulous proofreading and editing are indispensable. Adherence to these considerations during the translation process can substantially improve both the precision and efficiency of rendering energy texts into English.

Keywords: Energy text; translation challenges; discourse cohesion; translation techniques.

1. Introduction

The rapid advancement in the field of energy has increasingly highlighted the significance of energy texts. However, due to their complexity and specialized nature, translating these texts poses certain challenges. To enhance the quality of English translation of energy texts, this paper adopts a Discourse Cohesion Theory perspective to address effective translation strategies for such materials. Energy texts often contain specialized terminologies and intricate technical information, encompassing knowledge and concepts from various disciplines. Moreover, with their high information density, these texts require precise conveyance of the original message. Considering these unique aspects and translation hurdles, employing the theory can provide guidance for the English translation of energy texts.

2. Overview of the Characteristics and Translation Challenges of Energy Texts

2.1. Energy Texts Often Encompass Specialized Terminology and Complex Technical Information

The translation of energy texts poses unique challenges, primarily due to their extensive use of specialized terminology and intricate technical information. The energy sector covers various subdomains, such as nuclear energy, renewable resources, electrical systems, and more, each with its unique vocabulary. These terms often carry precise definitions and concepts that must be accurately communicated in the target language. Translators must familiarize themselves with the corresponding terminology in the target language, ensuring accurate and consistent translations. Additionally, energy texts often delve into complex technological processes, equipment, and principles, involving engineering techniques, generation methods, and energy conversion technologies. Accurate comprehension of these technicalities, their functions, and applications is crucial for effective translation. Furthermore, certain technical terms may differ across countries or regions, necessitating awareness of regional terminological variations and adherence to local conventions and norms. The intricate

integration of specialized terminology and technical information within complex sentences and paragraphs adds another layer of complexity, requiring translators to carefully analyze the context to accurately capture the intended meaning.

2.2. Energy Texts Integrate Knowledge and Concepts from Various Disciplines

The challenges of translating energy texts are amplified by their interdisciplinary nature, as they draw upon multiple academic fields and areas of expertise. The energy sector is rife with specific terminology related to power generation technologies, energy conversion, renewable resources, and more. A translator's accurate interpretation and rendering of such terms require background knowledge in engineering, physics, and other relevant disciplines. Energy-related content often involves principles of physics and engineering techniques such as thermodynamics, electrical systems, and transmission pipelines. Translators must grasp these principles and techniques to ensure they can understand and convey the material effectively. Additionally, energy texts frequently touch upon the environmental impact and sustainability aspects of energy production and utilization. Familiarity with environmental science and sustainable development concepts is essential for translators to accurately represent these discussions. The energy sector is also significantly influenced by policies and regulations, including energy policies, environmental laws, and more. Thus, translators need to be well-versed in the legal and regulatory framework of the countries or regions involved to translate policy content accurately. Energy texts may also encompass interdisciplinary concepts that straddle various fields, such as energy economics and energy security. Translators must be capable of understanding and transforming these cross-disciplinary concepts, adapting them from the source context to the appropriate domain-specific context in the target language[1].

2.3. High Information Density in Energy Texts Poses Translation Challenges

The high information density of energy texts is one of the key difficulties in translation. These texts often contain numerous technical details and scientific principles, explaining various energy types, engineering processes,

equipment, and more. Accurately communicating these details while maintaining clarity and conciseness in the target language requires a high level of comprehension and translation expertise. Translators must thoroughly understand these intricacies and find the most effective way to convey them in the target language. Additionally, energy texts frequently contain a significant amount of data and statistical information, such as energy production and consumption figures, energy efficiency metrics, and so on. Handling these data accurately and presenting them appropriately in the target language is crucial to ensure the accuracy and readability of the translated text. Given that energy texts are often based on specific background knowledge and contextual information, such as energy policies and environmental regulations, translators must possess relevant domain expertise to comprehend and convey the referenced background information. Moreover, the high information density in energy texts can lead to the risk of information overload. Translators must prioritize key information, ensuring its accurate communication while avoiding an overly verbose translation that replicates the original text's detailed content. Refining and summarizing key points is essential to enhance the readability and comprehensibility of the translated text.

3. English Translation of Energy Texts from the Perspective of Discourse Cohesion Theory

3.1. The cohesive paragraph

Certainly, the cohesive paragraph plays a vital role in the English translation of energy texts, as it helps to introduce the reader to the topic while maintaining logical coherence and semantic continuity. The following is a specific case analysis. The source text is referred to as "ST", whereas "TT" denotes the target text.

ST: 首先, 传统能源资源的短缺问题正日益引起全球能源市场的关注。然而, 新能源技术的快速发展为解决这一问题提供了希望。

TT: Firstly, the increasing scarcity of traditional energy resources is raising global concerns in the energy market. However, the rapid development of new energy technologies provides hope for addressing this issue.

ST: 然而, 随着环境保护意识的增强, 对可再生能源的需求不断增长。因此, 各国纷纷加大对可再生能源的投资力度。

TT: Furthermore, with the growing awareness of environmental protection, there is a continuous increase in demand for renewable energy. As a result, countries are increasing their investments in renewable energy.

In the example above, the cohesive paragraph initiates the topic by utilizing the conjunction "首先" and "然而", mirroring the logical relationship found in the source text. This structure engages the reader by introducing the subject matter effectively. Furthermore, the sentence construction and word order have been adjusted to achieve natural fluency in the target language. The cohesive paragraph proceeds with the adverb "另外" to introduce the subsequent point, followed by the subordinating conjunction "然而" to express a resultative relationship, maintaining the source text's logical coherence in the target language. Moreover, the use of pronouns like "there is" avoids the repetition of the subject, resulting in more concise and clear sentences.[2]

3.2. Main body

When translating the main body of energy texts, which contains a wealth of specialized terminology and technical information, several considerations must be kept in mind. Firstly, it is essential to accurately comprehend the technical details and scientific principles presented in the source text. This requires an in-depth understanding of the professional knowledge related to the field, ensuring correct interpretation and communication of such content during the translation process. By mastering the meanings of professional terms and the concepts behind them, the translator can accurately convey the technical information involved in the original text. When encountering complex technical terms or concepts, one might refer to specialized terminology databases or seek advice from experts to ensure the precision and consistency of terminology. Secondly, paying attention to context comprehension and overall linguistic context is crucial. Considering the high information density of energy texts, translators need to understand the function and relationships of each sentence and paragraph to accurately convey the original text's meaning.

It is important to thoroughly grasp the source text's argument structure and logical thinking and maintain consistency and coherence in the translation. Careful attention should be given to the transitions and connections between paragraphs, making the translation linguistically unified and fluent while preserving the source text's discourse and logical relationships. When translating terminology, adjustments should be made according to the expression habits of the target language to make it more in line with the understanding and customs of the target language's readers. Appropriate sentence structures and patterns should be used, ensuring that the translation matches the source text on both grammatical and semantic levels. Depending on the context, various sentence types and rhetorical techniques should be flexibly utilized to accurately convey the meaning expressed in the original text. To avoid excessive ornamentation and lengthy sentences, a clear and concise style of expression should be adopted, ensuring that readers can easily understand the translated content.

3.3. Conclusion Section

The conclusion section plays a crucial role in summarizing and refining the content of energy texts in their English translation. Here is an example of how to handle this part.

ST: 因此, 推动可再生能源的发展是实现能源转型的关键。总之, 通过减少对传统能源的依赖并增加可再生能源的使用, 我们可以实现清洁、可持续的能源未来。

TT: Therefore, promoting the development of renewable energy is crucial for achieving energy transition. In conclusion, by reducing dependence on traditional energy sources and increasing the use of renewable energy, we can achieve a clean and sustainable energy future.

Absolutely, in the given example, the use of the conjunction "因此" and the summarizing expression "总之" guide the reader to grasp the core arguments. The translation maintains logical coherence similar to the source text and adapts the tone and attitude of the sentences to align with the writing style of the target language. The conclusion underscores the importance of advancing renewable energy development and encapsulates the ultimate goals of reducing reliance on traditional energy sources and increasing the use of renewable. When dealing with the conclusion section of an

energy text, it is crucial to capture the original's central ideas and conclusions while maintaining cohesion with the preceding sections. During translation, it's important to flexibly use appropriate conjunctions and phrases, adjust the tone and attitude of sentences, and select expressions that are congruent with the customs and writing styles of the target language.

3.4. The cohesive sentences

Cohesive sentences play a crucial role in connecting different paragraphs and topics within a text. When translating, translators need to pay attention to the following points when dealing with cohesive sentences. Firstly, it is essential to choose appropriate transitional words and phrases. For instance, words like “同时”, “因此”, “然而” can help express the logical relationship between the preceding and succeeding texts. Based on the context and meaning of the source text, translators should select suitable cohesive words and phrases to ensure a smooth connection between sentences. During the translation process, it is important to use a variety of cohesive words to avoid overreliance on certain connectors. This adds variety and makes the sentences more dynamic and readable. If the same cohesive word is used repeatedly in the source text, translators can attempt to find alternatives or rephrase the sentences to increase diversity. Comprehending the semantics and context of the source text is crucial. Simply translating cohesive words or phrases may not accurately convey the intended meaning of the original. Therefore, translators need to consider the content of the surrounding texts and the logical relationships between sentences when selecting appropriate ones. Ensuring smooth transitions between sentences is essential. Cohesive sentences should facilitate a natural and seamless transition between the source text and the translation, avoiding any awkward or jarring discontinuities. By paying attention to the use of cohesive sentences during translation, translators can enhance the coherence and readability of the translated text[4].

3.5. Modifiers and Phrases

Handling modifiers and phrases in energy-related texts is a crucial task, and an actual case study can illustrate the relevant considerations.

ST:该太阳能电池板采用高效多晶硅材料制造, 具有卓越的光电转换效率和较长的使用寿命。

TT:The solar panel is manufactured using high-efficiency polycrystalline silicon material, which has excellent photovoltaic conversion efficiency and a longer lifespan.

In this example, modifiers and phrases play a crucial role in describing the technical details and performance metrics of solar panels. The translation accurately captures the intended meaning of the source text and selects expressions that are appropriate for the target language. Specifically, the modifiers “高效的” and “卓越的” emphasize the excellence of the solar panels' photoelectric conversion efficiency and durability, respectively. The modifying phrase “polycrystalline silicon material” describes the manufacturing material of the solar panels. Furthermore, the translation pays attention to the placement and sequencing of modifiers, ensuring they are appropriately positioned relative to the words they modify.

This maintains the correctness and flow of the sentence structure, ensuring readability and ease of comprehension for the target language reader.

3.6. Proofreading and Editing

Proofreading and editing are critical steps in ensuring the quality of energy text translations from Chinese to English. Translators should pay attention to several key aspects when proofreading and editing their work. Firstly, it is important to check terminology accuracy and consistency. The accuracy of terminology used within the translated text needs to be carefully checked to ensure consistency throughout the document. It can be beneficial to utilize specialized terminology databases or consult with industry experts to validate the choice of terms, guaranteeing precise communication. Secondly, sentence structure and grammar review. It is important to closely examine the grammatical correctness of sentences, ensuring that they are clearly expressed and free from ambiguity. Proper tense usage, subject-verb agreement, and correct word order should be considered to adhere to the target language's grammatical norms while maintaining fluency. By meticulously adhering to these guidelines during the proofreading and editing process, translators can significantly enhance the readability and comprehensibility of the translated text, guaranteeing a high-quality translation that effectively communicates the original message[5].

4. Conclusion

By employing a discourse cohesion theory perspective, we can effectively address the challenges in translating energy texts, thus ensuring accuracy and coherence in English translations. The proper use of cohesive paragraph, cohesive sentences, modifiers, and phrases, as well as meticulous proofreading and editing, contribute to smooth communication of energy texts across different languages. This facilitates better meeting the needs of readers and promotes communication and development within the energy sector.

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