# 词汇的内涵意义与 TEM-8 英译汉

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摘 要:本文从词汇的指示意义与内涵意义方面对 TEM-8 英译汉进行了分析。文章指出词汇的内涵意义对理解原文至关重要。学生不应仅限于词汇的指示意义,这样有些句子理解不了,而应从内涵意义的角度理解原文,并译成汉语。

关键词:词汇 内涵意义 指示意义

## 1. 引 言

在 2004 年 TEM-8 (英语语言文学专业 8 级考试)英译汉中,英语词汇的内涵意义成为理解的一个关键,且词汇的内涵意义多次出现。如"…I feel empty and need filling up."这里"empty"的指示意义为"空","filling up"的指示意义为"填充"。但根据上下文,应取其内涵意义,即分别为"空虚"和"充实",译为"我感到心灵空虚而需要充实"。再如"…and am full to the brim with experience that needs to be sorted out."中的"brim"一词的指示意义为帽子边缘或茶杯、碗或其他容器的上边缘。在本文"be full to the brim"应用它的内涵意义,即"满脑子"。"experience"一词若为不可数名词则指经验或感受,因此这一部分应译为"满脑子感受,需要分类整理"。因此词的内涵意义对 TEM-8 英译汉理解十分重要。

#### 2. 词的内涵意义

根据 Webster's New World Dictionary, 词的指示意义和内涵意义为:

Denotation: the direct, explicit meaning or reference of a word or term.

Connotation: idea or notion suggested by or associated with a word, phrase, etc., in addition to its explicit meaning, or denotation: "politician" has different connotations from "statesman".

根据《英汉大词典》, 词的指示意义和内涵意义为:

Denotation (词等的)指示意义,本义:The denotation of "home" is "place where one lives", but it has many connotations. "home"这个词的本义是"家", 但它还有多种隐含意义。

Connotation: 内涵意义,隐含意义;转义: "politician" has different connotations from "statesman". "政客"和"政治家"具有不同的内涵意义。再如"mother"一词,其指示意义为"母亲",但该词内涵丰富,意味着"善良"、"体贴"、"温柔"。

在本文, 取较为容易理解的定义:

Denotation:指示意义; Connotation:内涵意义。

#### 3. 试题原文及试题分析

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# 2005 年 TEM-8 英译汉考试要求将下划线部分译为汉语:

It is simple enough to say that since books have classes --- fiction, biography, poetry --- we should separate them and take from each what it is right that each should give us. Yet few people ask from books what books can give us. Most commonly we come to books with blurred and divided minds, asking of fiction that it shall be true, of poetry that it shall be false, of biography that it shall be flattering, of history that it shall enforce our own prejudices. If we could banish all such preconceptions when we read, that would be an admirable beginning. Do not dictate to your author; try to become him. Be his fellow-worker and accomplice. If you hang back, and reserve and criticize at first, you are preventing yourself from getting the fullest possible value from what you read. But if you open your mind as widely as possible, then signs and hints of almost imperceptible fineness, from the twist and turn of the first sentences, will bring you into the presence of a human being unlike any other. Steep yourself in this, acquaint yourself with this, and soon you will find that your author is giving you, or attempting to give you, something far more definite.

文章开头的一句虽然没有划线,不要求考生翻译,但值得考生认真阅读,从而掌握语篇的连贯性和背景知识,有利于翻译下面的句子。

开头一句是: It is simple enough to say that since books have classes-fiction, biography, poetry-we should separate them and take from each what it is right that each should give us.

此句与下一句形成转折关系,需考生注意。

这一句中"take"一词的指示意义应为"拿取",在本文取其内涵意义"吸收"。"give"一词的指示意义为"给",结合上下文,取其内涵意义"提供知识"。这样这一句可译为:"下面的话说起来容易:由于书有不同种类,分为小说、传记、诗歌,所以我们读书时应该区分不同的书,从而吸收应该从书中吸收到的真实知识。"

接下来看划线部分的第一句:yet few people ask from books what books can give us,此句的开头一词"yet"表明的与上文是转折关系,这对于理解"ask from"非常有利。"ask"指示意义为"询问",根据上下文,"ask from"与上文的"take"属同义词,即取其内涵意义"吸收"。此句译为"可是几乎没人从书中吸收书所能提供给我们的知识。"再看下一句:Most commonly we come to books with blurred and divided minds, asking of fiction that it shall be flattering, of poetry that it shall be false, of biography that it shall be flattering, of history that it shall enforce our own prejudices. 在这一句中,"come to"指示意义为"来到",在本文应取其内涵意义,应译为"读书"。"ask"指示意义为"询问",在本文,取其内涵意义,"期望"。"mind"一词的指示意义为"头脑",在本文取其内涵意义,"想法"。"enforce"一词的指示意义为"强迫遵守法律规则和义务等"。在本文其内涵意义为"使某事发生"。所以整句可以译为:"我们读书时常常思想模糊,想法不一致,期望小说是真实的,诗歌是虚假的,传记是奉承人的,历史是按照我们的先见发生的。"再译下一句:If we could banish all such preconceptions when we read, that would be an admirable beginning. 在这一句中,"banish"一词的指示意义为"流放",即作为官方惩罚把一个人从一个国家或地方送走。在本文,取其内涵意义"摆脱"或"取消"。"preconceptions"则指上文的"burred and divided minds"。因此整句可译为:"如果我们读书时能够摆脱所有这些模糊不清的思想和不一致的想法,那将是一个值得羡慕的良好开端。"

再分析下一句: Do not dictate to your author; try to become him, 在这一句中, "dictate"指示意义为: "向……听写", 在本文, 取其内涵意义, 句子可理解为:让作者按自己的想法写作。"become"一词的指示意义是"成为", 在这里是指"按作者思路读书"。因此这一句可译为:"不要要求作者按自己的想法写作, 而应按作者的思路读书。"

再看下一句: Be his fellow-worker and accomplice, "fellow-worker"指示意义为"同事",这里取其内涵意义为"共同创作者";"accomplice"的指示意义为"同案犯",在本文应为"共同谋划者"。这一句可以译为:"与作者共同创作,共同构思。"若译为:"成为他的同事和同案犯显然不对。这里不是指成为作者的同事,而是共同创作者。"

再看下一句: If you hang back, and reserve and criticize at first, you are preventing yourself from getting the fullest possible value from what you read, 在这一句中, "hand back"的指示意义为"留在后面"。根据上文,在本文中的意思则应为:不愿这样做,即不愿成为作者的共同创作者和构思者。因此整句可译为:"如果你不愿成为作者的共同创作者和构思者,而固执已见,一开始就批评作者,这样你就自己阻止自己最大可能地从读的书中获得有价值的知识。"再看划线部分的最后一句话: But if you open your mind as widely as possible, then signs and hints of almost imperceptible fineness, from the twist and tern of the first sentences, will bring you into the presence of a human being unlike any other. 在这句话中"open"的指示意义为"打开",在本句中与"mind"搭配,应译为"最大限度地接受别人的想法"。"twist and turn"指示意义为"弯弯曲曲",这里则指"晦涩难懂"。此句译为:"但是如果你最大限底地接受作者的思想,从一开始的晦涩难懂的句子开始,几乎不可觉察的微妙之处的迹象将把你带到不同于任何人的一个人面前。"

## 4. 结 论

TEM-8 是考查学生英语水平的手段之一。词汇内涵意义对考题的理解非常重要。若学生能识别内涵意义则说明水平提高了一大步。在日常教学中,教师应加强对学生内涵意义识别能力的培养。同时加强逻辑思维能力的培养,这会有助于词汇内涵意义的理解。

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# Connotation of Words and Translation from English to Chinese in TEM-8

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**Abstract:** Based on the denotation and connotation, this paper analyses the translation from English into Chinese in TEM-8. Connotation is one key to the understanding of the original text. Students should know connotation of words in understanding and translating.

Key words: word; connotation; denotation

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