

A Corpus-Based Study on the Features and Translation Skills of Conjunctions in the English Translation of Chinese Family Law

LI Qianru^[a]; WANG Yue^{[b],*}

^[a] Graduate student, School of Law, Hunan University, Changsha, Hunan, China.

^[b] Lecturer, Department of Foreign Studies, North China Electric Power University, Baoding, Hebei, China.

*Corresponding author.

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Abstract

As the number of foreign friends coming to live and work in China had demonstrated an apparent upward trend, the research sets out to conduct a corpus-based analysis on conjunctions in the English translation of the Chinese Family Law through quantitative and qualitative approaches. Based on the data analysis, it could be concluded that the translation text tends to use additive and hypothetical conjunctions, but adversative conjunctions appear less frequent; the translation text presents a low diversity in additive, hypothetical and adversative conjunctions; in the translation text, additive, hypothetical, and clarifying conjunctions exhibit explicitness, while temporal, adversative, causal and continuative conjunctions represent implicitness. Then four translation skills are proposed based on the data, including “amplification” “interpretation” “ellipsis” and “sentence reorganization”.

Key words: Conjunction; Corpus; Legal Translation; Translation Skill

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1. INTRODUCTION

In June 2018, the “Report on China’s International Migration” compiled by the CCG was released in Beijing. The report showed that the number of foreign friends coming to live and work in China had demonstrated an apparent upward trend, which adds to the significance of translating and introducing the Chinese Family law to a wider readership. Meanwhile, considering the strictness of legal texts, the translation of conjunctions, a pivotal linking device, is particularly important. As a result, there has been a growing interest in studying translation skills of conjunctions in legal texts. However, most of the previous research only focused on the investigation of conjunctions into trade laws, failing to take heed to conjunctions in laws of other types. This research gap may cause the lack of universality and accuracy of the findings. And to date, the majority of research has been on English-Chinese translation rather than Chinese-English translation. This research is expected to fill the gap in this field and provide a new insight by studying Chinese-English translation of conjunctions in family laws.

2. THEORETICAL BASIS AND RELEVANT RESEARCH

2.1 Research on Conjunctions

Conjunctions generally refer to words or phrases which play a role in connecting. And research into the definition of conjunctions has a long history. In China, Hu Zhuanglin (1994) is one of the most representative scholars in the research on conjunctions. He considered that conjunctions included “not only connectives but also linking adverbials in the form of adverbs or prepositional phrases” (Hu Zhuanglin, 1994: 92). And foreign scholars basically reach an agreement with Chinese scholars in the definition of conjunctions.

As for the classification of conjunctions, foreign scholars have done more systematic research, especially Halliday and Hasan. By the early 1970s, Halliday and Hasan (1976) published a book called *Cohesion in English*, where they sorted conjunctions into four types, namely “addition”, “adversative”, “casual” and “temporal”. This classification is also known as “conjunction quartering”. Afterwards, some foreign scholars further detailed the classification of conjunctions according to the function of texts. In 1993, Crismore managed to classify conjunctions from a capability perspective. And later, Trebits (2008) came up with a classification method applicable for English teaching of the European Union official documents. On the basis of Halliday’s “conjunction quartering”, she added another three types: “continuative”, “hypothetical” and “clarifying”.

2.2 Contrastive Study on Conjunctions in Chinese and English

In order to study the translation of conjunctions, there is a large volume of published papers and monographs about contrastive studies on conjunctions in Chinese and English texts. To date, several studies have investigated that the functions of English and Chinese conjunctions are largely the same. However, great differences still exist. Zhu Yongsheng (2001) once summed up the differences between conjunctions in English and Chinese texts: “explicit” and “implicit”. According to Zhu, “explicitness” means that conjunctions are used to connect words or sentences, while “implicitness” is defined as a connection feature where words or sentences are linked by their own internal logic. Ke Fei (2005) also agreed with his point and made a further interpretation. From his perspective, Chinese lexical and grammatical cohesion is less obvious than those in English. Therefore, translators often tend to manifest conjunctions when they conduct Chinese-English translation. Meanwhile, they can be inclined to imitate conjunctions in English when they translate English into Chinese. Actually, awareness of “explicitness” and “implicitness” in translation process is not recent, having possibly first been described in 1980s. At that time, an Israeli scholar named Kulblum-kulka (1986) made a famous point called “explicitness hypothesis”, which suggests that the redundancy in the translation process is mainly reflected in conjunctions.

After that, light has been cast on the explicitness and implicitness of conjunctions. Many researchers made further studies in this area and painted different pictures. A research conducted by Yan Xi (2009) found that it was not definitive that conjunctions in Chinese was less explicit than those in English. Similarly, Zhang Meifang and Pan Hanting (2014) also argued that whether conjunctions in Chinese texts had implicitness tendency or not was subject to more debate. Moreover, Liu Mengqian (2016) pointed out that the features of conjunctions in explicitness and

implicitness varied from type to type. In other words, it should depend on a case by case analysis.

2.3 Corpus-Based Research on Conjunctions

The rapid development of computer technology has greatly improved the collection of texts in terms of both quantity and efficiency, promoting the development of corpus linguistic research. And owing to the corpus technology, a quantifiable approach is provided for the study of legal texts (Fang Yuhua & Hu Zhihong, 2020), which brings the study of conjunctions to the “post-corpus” period, where scholars have shifted studies from cases to general trends and linguistic features (Dong Min & Feng Dezheng, 2014).

In the last decade, many scholars have managed to analyze conjunctions in bilingual legal texts with the help of corpus. From the perspective of the legal text types, most scholars, represented by Zhang Meifang, focused on the study of conjunctions in trade laws. There is relatively small body of literature that is concerned with other forms of legal texts. Take Zhou Fan as an instance, she once conducted research on conjunctions in popular law texts in 2013.

3. RESEARCH DESIGN

3.1 Research Questions

(1) What are the features of conjunctions in the translation of Chinese Family Law?

(a) Do they have any distinguishing usage pattern in tendency and diversity?

(b) Do they have any defining characteristic of explicitness and implicitness?

(2) What skills can be applied to translate Chinese conjunctions in the family law?

3.2 Corpus Information and Analysis Tools

The research has constructed three corpora.

The first corpus is the translation text of the Chinese Family Law included in the *Civil Code of the People’s Republic of China*, which is provided by PKULAW (<http://www.pkulaw.com>). The corpus has 4,828 tokens and it will be tagged as Corpus A in the data analysis.

The second corpus is a part of the “Marital and Domestic Relations” in *the Code of Alabama*. This extract mainly involves three parts, namely “Divorce from Bonds of Matrimony”, “Husband and Wife” and “Protection from Abuse”. The text is planned to be set up as a comparable corpus of Corpus A, in order to find out the usage patterns of conjunctions in it. This corpus has 4,967 tokens and it will be labeled as Corpus B in the data analysis.

The third corpus is the source text of the Chinese Family Law, which covers almost every aspect in the matrimony, including divorce, domestic violence, alimony, adoption and so on. And it will function as a parallel corpus of Corpus A, investigating the explicitness

and implicitness features in the two corpora. This corpus has 3,062 tokens and it will be named as Corpus C in the data analysis.

Moreover, several tools were used in the study. CorpusWordPaser and TmxMall are used for cleaning and aligning bilingual texts; WordSmith Tools Version 4.0 and AntConc are used for data collection and analysis in monolingual corpus; BFSU ParaConc is used for parallel corpus concordance.

3.3 Statistical Terms

Throughout this paper, three statistical terms will be mentioned in the data analysis. The first one is “normalized frequency”, which is often used to make a comparison between the occurrence of one word in text A and that in text B. A major advantage of this method is that it can greatly reduce errors caused by the different lengths of texts. The formula is as follows: the Occurrence of the Target Word / the Number of Words in the Text*1000.

The second term is “chi-square”, which is one of the most practical and effective ways to test significance difference between two sets of statistics. If the value of “p” is below 0.05, the two groups of statistics are proved to have great differences.

The last one is “diversity index”, which serves as an indicator to demonstrate the diversity of conjunctions in this dissertation. The formula is as follows: the number of conjunction types used in the text / the total number of conjunction types in one category*100%.

3.4 Research Framework

3.4.1 Classification of Conjunctions in English and Chinese

Trebits (2008) firstly advanced a classification of conjunctions applicable for the EU official document by adding another three types of conjunctions to Halliday’s “conjunction quartering”. The seven categories are additive, adversative, continuative, clarifying, hypothetical, temporal and causal. And the detailed information is presented as follows:

Additive: and, or, nor, both...and, either...or, neither...nor, also, in addition, besides, as well as, moreover, furthermore, additionally;

Adversative: but, though, although, yet, apart from, except, instead, however, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding

Causal: because, as, for, since, in view of, thus, as a result, therefore, consequently, that’s why, so;

Temporal: after, as long as, until, after that, at the same time, meanwhile, while, next, when;

Continuative: anyway, now, regarding, as regards, then, with reference to;

Hypothetical: if, provided that, unless, in case, in cases, in that case, just in case, if so, if not, as though;

Clarifying: for example, in particular, such as, for instance, that is, actually, I mean, in other words.

Since the EU official document, which states some contractual relationship and grants some right, shares the feature of accuracy and conciseness with legislative texts, Trebits’ classification would be adopted in this study on the conjunctions in the family law.

Meanwhile, according to Trebit’s classification of conjunctions in English and the study of Zhao Yuanren (2011), a corresponding classification of conjunctions in Chinese is showed as below:

Additive: 和, 跟, 与, 既, 即, 以及, 及, 还, 并且, 何况, 乃至, 或者, 也, 且, 并;

Adversative: 却, 虽然, 但是, 然而, 而, 不过, 除外;

Causal: 原来, 因为, 因, 由于, 以便, 因此, 所以, 是故, 以致;

Temporal: 自, 之日, 先, 后;

Continuative: 则, 即, 于是, 然后, 至于, 此外, 而, 接着;

Hypothetical: 若, 时, 如果, 当, 假如, 只要, 除非, 假使, 倘若, 假若, 要是;

Clarifying: 比如, 譬如.

3.4.2 Definition of Explicitness and Implicitness

According to Zhu Yongsheng (2001), “explicitness” and “implicitness” are two features of cohesion devices demonstrated in the text. To put it simply, “explicitness” is a kind of cohesion characteristic where conjunctions and linking expressions are fully utilized to connect words, sentences or paragraphs. For example, “because” is often used in texts to manifest the causal relationship.

Unlike explicitness, “implicitness” emphasizes that words and sentences can be connected only by their internal logic instead of using conjunctions. Here an example of implicitness is given for understanding: “Hudson decided next to establish himself in London. He bought what was then considered to be the largest private house in London, Albert House.” (from *An Introduction To Functional Grammar* by Halliday). This paragraph implies a causal relationship, but it does not use any conjunction between the two sentences.

3.4.3 Translation Skills

The study will follow the translation skills proposed by Zhang Peiji, which have been frequently used in previous research on conjunction translation and widely appreciated in the field of translation research. In 1997, Zhang Peiji once put forward several basic skills in translation process, which can be briefly concluded into six types, namely “word selection”, “interpretation”, “amplification”, “ellipsis”, “repetition” and “litotes”. Moreover, “restructuring sentences” proposed by Li Yichao (2015) will also be considered in this study. To sum up, the paper will try to conclude translation methods of conjunctions on the basis of the seven skills.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The research aims at analyzing the features of conjunctions in the Chinese Family Law translation text

(Corpus A) from two aspects, namely the usage patterns and the features of explicitness and implicitness.

4.1 Data Analysis on the Usage Patterns of Conjunctions

The usage patterns of conjunctions in Corpus A (the translation text of Chinese Family Law) will be analyzed in two perspectives, respectively tendency and diversity. The using tendency would be used to analyze the usage patterns of conjunctions at the category level, while the using diversity could be utilized as a more detailed investigation into each category.

4.1.1 Data Analysis on the Usage Patterns of Corpus A

When it comes to the using tendency, a bar chart is offered for a better view in Figure 1, which shows the detailed percentage of each category in Corpus A.

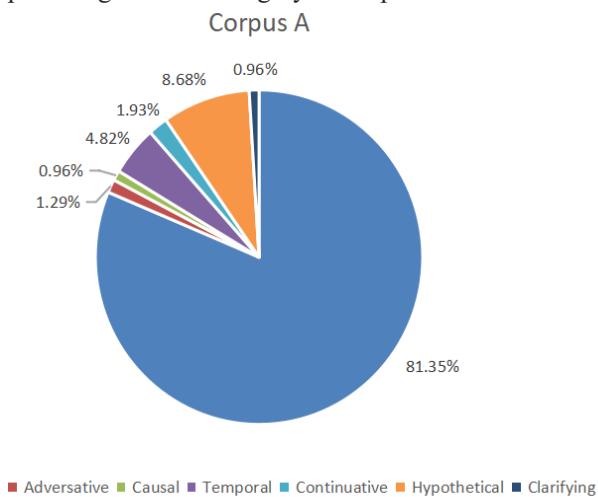


Figure 1
Percentage of Each Category in Corpus A

As can be seen from Figure 1, the percentage of additive conjunctions dominates the bar chart, totaling approximately 81.35%. It also can be seen from the data that hypothetical conjunctions and temporal conjunctions take the second and third place respectively, accounting for approximately 8.68% and 4.82%. Interestingly, the percentages of causal conjunctions and clarifying conjunctions was observed to be the same, occupying 0.96% and ranking at the bottom.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the translation of Chinese Family Law tends to use additive conjunctions, hypothetical conjunctions and temporal conjunctions, the summation of which can almost reach 95%.

As for the using diversity of each category, the diversity index (the number of conjunction types used in the text/the total number of conjunction types in one category*100%) was created for recounting the statistics. The results are shown in Table 1.

According to Table 1, the diversity index of each category goes down in order: continuative conjunctions (50%), additive conjunctions (46%), temporal conjunctions (33%), hypothetical conjunctions (33%), adversative

conjunctions (27%), clarifying conjunctions (25%), and causal conjunctions (18%). In other words, the continuative conjunction of the translation text enjoys the highest diversity, while the causal conjunction is the least diverse.

Table 1
The Diversity Index of Conjunctions in Corpus A

	Number of Types used	Total Number of Types	Diversity Index (%)
Additive	6	13	46%
Adversative	3	11	27%
Causal	2	11	18%
Temporal	3	9	33%
Continuative	3	6	50%
Hypothetical	4	12	33%
Clarifying	2	8	25%

More detailedly, Among the continuative conjunctions, “with reference to” is the most frequently used expression, which takes up about 67%. As to the additive conjunctions, “and” and “or” rank the first and second position, taking up 53% and 39% respectively. And in the temporal conjunctions, “after” dominates this category, accounting for about 87%. Comparatively, “if” (33%) “unless” (26%) and “when” (33%) are evenly matched in the hypothetical conjunctions.

4.1.2 Comparative Study on the Usage Patterns of Corpus A and B

To make a further study on the usage pattern of conjunctions in Corpus A, the translation text of Chinese Family Law, Corpus B (the family law of the US) was performed as a comparable corpus. The statistics was also observed from two aspects, namely tendency and diversity.

To start with, the normalized frequency (Norm. frequency) was introduced to present the using tendency of conjunctions in the two corpora. The detailed information of the “occurrence” and “normalized frequency” is demonstrated in Table 2. Moreover, “B/A” (the Norm.frequency of conjunctions in Corpus B / the Norm.frequency of conjunctions in Corpus A) is offered for a more visual comparison.

As is quite apparent in the table above, the order of conjunctions in the two corpora do not differ significantly in the top three, where the additive conjunction and the hypothetical conjunction respectively ranks first and second. However, as to the third place, the temporal conjunction and the adversative conjunction respectively occupies this position in Corpus A and Corpus B.

It is also noticeable that the frequency of the adversative conjunction demonstrates a significant difference in the two corpora, separately ranking sixth (0.829) and third (5.637) in Corpus A and Corpus B, and the valuation of “B/A” reaches up to 6.8, indicating a broad difference.

Another interesting finding is lied in the normalized frequency of the clarifying conjunction. Although this kind conjunction has a low frequency in the two corpora,

respectively ranking sixth and seventh, it unexpectedly hits the rock bottom with zero in Corpus B.

For the purpose of offering a further insight in the comparative study, the Chi-squared test was applied in this part to examine the difference of frequency statistically. The test clearly exhibits that the frequencies of adversative conjunctions in the two corpora have significant

difference, which is in line with the findings in Table 2. Nonetheless, it is striking to display that the frequencies of the hypothetical conjunction in the two corpora also differ greatly, even though this kind of conjunction take the same place in the two groups. To conclude, compared with Corpus B, Corpus A tends to use fewer adversative conjunctions and hypothetical conjunctions.

Table 2
Occurrence and Normalized Frequency of Conjunctions in Corpus A and Corpus B

Corpus A				Corpus B			
ORD	Conjunction	Occurrence	Norm. frequency (1000 tokens)	ORD	Occurrence	Norm. frequency (1000 tokens)	B/A
1	Additive	253	52.403	1	285	57.379	1.095
5	Adversative	4	0.829	3	28	5.637	6.800
6	Causal	3	0.621	6	2	0.403	0.649
3	Temporal	15	3.107	4	20	4.027	1.296
4	Continuative	6	1.243	5	4	0.805	0.648
2	Hypothetical	27	5.592	2	58	11.677	2.088
6	Clarifying	3	0.621	7	0	0.000	0

Secondly, it will then go on to further explore the diversity of conjunctions in Corpus A by comparison with that in Corpus B. Likewise, the diversity index mentioned in Table 1 is also applied in this study. And the detailed data is as below (Table 3).

Table 3
Diversity Index of Conjunctions in Corpus A and Corpus B

Categories	Number of Types used		Total Number of Types A (B)	Diversity Index (%)	
	A	B		A	B
Additive	6	8	13	46%	62%
Adversative	3	6	11	27%	55%
Causal	2	1	11	18%	9%
Temporal	3	2	9	33%	22%
Continuative	3	3	6	50%	50%
Hypothetical	4	9	12	33%	75%
Clarifying	2	0	8	25%	0

From the table above we can see that the diversity of conjunctions in the two corpora vary from category to category, apart from continuative conjunctions. On the one hand, the diversity index of Corpus A exceeds that of Corpus B in causal, temporal and clarifying conjunctions. On the other hand, Corpus A illustrates lower diversity than Corpus B in additive, adversative and hypothetical conjunctions. Among the three types of conjunctions, both the adversative conjunction (27%) and the hypothetical

conjunction (33%) in Corpus A demonstrates especially low diversity, whose diversity index are only half of those in Corpus B.

What's more, it is found that the translation tends to use easier conjunctions than the original text. For example, the translation has a tendency to overuse "and", which accounts for 53% of the total additive conjunctions used in the translation, but rarely uses advanced expressions, such as "in addition" "meanwhile" "furthermore" and so on. And the same sort of phenomenon has cropped up in both hypothetical conjunctions and adversative conjunctions, where "if" (33%) and "but" (50%) are used exceedingly, while "provided that" (0) and "notwithstanding" (0) are used hardly.

4.2 Data Analysis on the Feature of Explicitness and Implicitness

For the sake of analyzing the explicitness and implicitness feature of conjunctions in Corpus A, Corpus C (the source text of the Chinese Family Law) is taken as a parallel corpus. And the occurrence and normalized frequency of conjunctions also function as a measurement standard. The detailed statistics is illustrated in Table 4, and a bar chart is also provided for the visualization of the findings (Figure 2). The value of "C/A" (the Norm.frequency of conjunctions in Corpus C / the Norm.frequency of conjunctions in Corpus A) is introduced to judge the feature of explicitness and implicitness.

Table 4
Occurrence and Normalized Frequency of Conjunctions in Corpus A and Corpus C

Corpus A				Corpus C			
ORD	Conjunction	Occurrence	Norm. frequency (1000 tokens)	ORD	Occurrence	Norm. frequency (1000 tokens)	C/A
1	Additive	253	52.403	1	127	41.476	0.791
5	Adversative	4	0.829	3	17	5.552	6.697
6	Causal	3	0.621	4	10	3.266	5.259
3	Temporal	15	3.107	2	31	10.124	3.258
4	Continuative	6	1.243	5	9	2.939	2.364
2	Hypothetical	27	5.592	5	9	2.939	0.526
6	Clarifying	3	0.621	6	0	0.000	0

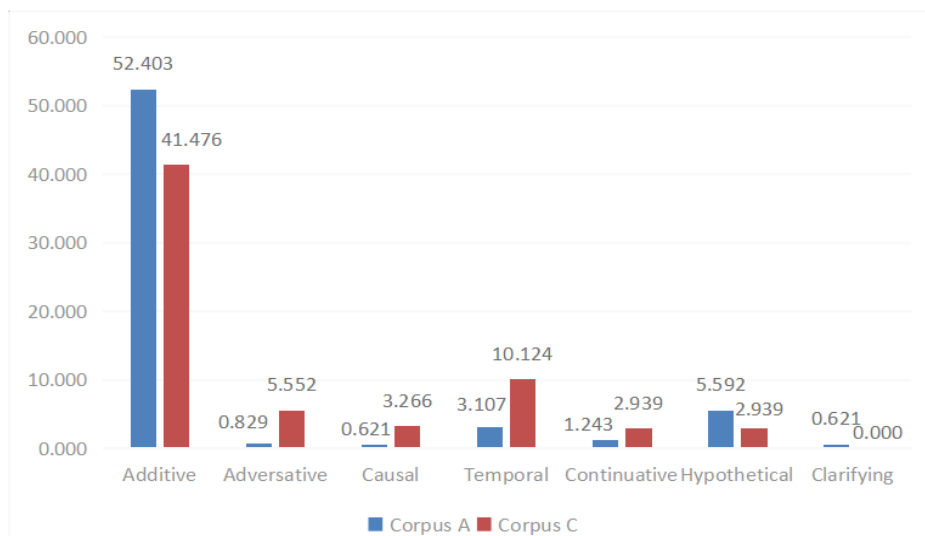


Figure 2
the Normalized Frequency of Conjunctions in Corpus A and Corpus C

When the value of “C/A” is below 1, the conjunction in Corpus A demonstrate explicitness, otherwise it presents implicitness. Then, with the combination of the table and the bar chart, it is apparent that the conjunctions in Corpus A show explicitness in the three categories, covering the additive conjunction, the hypothetical conjunction and the clarifying conjunction, and indicates implicitness in the four categories, including the adversative conjunction, the causal conjunction, the temporal conjunction and the continuative conjunction.

4.3 Discussion

4.3.1 Discussion on the Usage Patterns

Given space limitations, this part only chooses three typical ones to elucidate, including additive, hypothetical and adversative conjunctions. Generally speaking, the adversative conjunction has low tendency and diversity at the same time, while both the additive conjunction and the hypothetical conjunction enjoy high tendency but low diversity.

As to the low tendency and diversity presented by the adversative conjunction in the translation, the stylistic characteristics of Chinese law can be speculated as a reason.

When it comes to the high tendency of the additive conjunction, the parallel structure in Chinese four-letter words can be taken as a reason. For instance, “男女双方” contains a parallel structure and it is translated into “a man and a woman”. What’s more, the Chinese law tends to use short statements, and “and” is frequently used as the conjunction to link them, which also cause the high tendency of the additive conjunction. As to the hypothetical conjunction, its high tendency is endowed by the legal text, where hypothetical scenarios are common.

In terms of the diversity, the simple sentence structure of the legal text can be reckoned as the major reason. Therefore, the progressive relation is rarely involved,

which results in the lack of advanced and various additive conjunctions. As for the hypothetical conjunction, the translators’ habit of language using may be another reason. Chinese translators tend to use “if” monotonously instead of using “provided that” or “in cases of”.

4.3.2 Discussion on the Feature of Explicitness and Implicitness

When it comes to the feature of explicitness and implicitness, the translation text tends to demonstrate explicitness in additive, hypothetical and clarifying conjunctions. Meanwhile, it shows implicitness in adversative, causal, temporal and continuative conjunctions.

Compared with the previous studies on the explicitness and implicitness of conjunctions, the outcome does not accord with the opinion of Ke Fei (2005) that translators often tend to manifest conjunctions when they conduct Chinese-English translation. Meanwhile, the “explicitness hypothesis” advanced by Kulblum-kulka (1986) is also not proved in this study. From Kulblum’s perspective, the redundancy is always reflected in conjunctions during the translation process.

Actually, the finding of the investigation broadly supports the work of other corpus-based studies in this area. It confirms that the implicitness and explicitness of conjunctions in the translation text is not unconditional, which has been reported by Yan Xi (2009) and Zhang Meifang (2014). The study also accords with the observation of Liu Mengqian (2016), who considered that the explicitness and implicitness of conjunctions would vary from category to category in her study on trade law text.

5. CASE STUDY ON TRANSLATION SKILLS

This part is concerned with the translation skills of conjunctions in the Chinese-English translation by

illustrating case studies. According to the data analysis on the feature of explicitness and implicitness, hypothetical conjunctions present explicitness, while adversative and causal conjunctions exhibit implicitness. Therefore, the three conjunctions would serve as objects.

5.1 Translation Skills of Explicitness

If the logical relations are not clear enough in the source text, translators could manifest conjunctions in two ways, including amplification and interpretation.

5.1.1 Amplification

This kind of translation method refers to add extra linking expressions when the source text lacks corresponding ones. For example:

[1] 一方患有重大疾病的, 应当在结婚登记前如实告知另一方; 不如实告知的, 另一方可以向人民法院请求撤销婚姻。

If one of the parties suffers from a serious disease, he shall truthfully inform the other party of such disease prior to marriage registration; where such information is not truthfully provided, the other party may apply to the people's court to annul the marriage.

The source text indicates two hypothetical relations, but it does not display them clearly under the linguistic habits of Chinese, which place emphasis on parataxis in most cases. So, it is necessary to make the logic clearer in the translation by adding the linking expression "if".

5.1.2 Interpretation

Interpretation is utilized in the translation when conjunctions in the source text fails to reveal the underlying semantic connotation clearly. And the sentence below is taken as an example:

[2] 因胁迫结婚的, 受胁迫的一方可以向人民法院请求撤销婚姻。

If a marriage is entered into as a result of coercion, the coerced party may apply to the people's court to annul the marriage.

In this example, "因" is always translated into "because" or "owing to". However, the real intention of this sentence is to reveal a hypothetical relation, where "a marriage is entered into as a result of coercion" is reckoned as an assumed condition. As a result, "因" is supposed to be interpreted as "if".

5.2 Translation Skills of Implicitness

Sometimes the semantic connotation of a sentence can be fully understood without using conjunctions in the translation. And then ellipsis and sentence reorganization can serve as an approach to deal with the situation. Likewise, the adversative conjunction and the causal conjunction, both of which show apparent implicitness features, would be targeted in the case study.

5.2.1 Ellipsis

In many cases, the redundancy of conjunctions would occur in the source text. For the purpose of clarifying logical relations more clearly, this kind of translation

means is used to delete unnecessary conjunctions instead of translating them into the corresponding ones. For instance:

[3] 现役军人的配偶要求离婚, 应当征得军人同意, 但是军人一方有重大过错的除外。

Where the spouse of a military personnel on active service requests for divorce, the consent of the spouse who is a military personnel on active service shall be obtained unless he is at serious fault.

In this sentence, "但是" is a superfluous expression in the source text, which is caused by the Chinese linguistic habits. Therefore, "但是" can be omitted in the translation, where the adversative relation can still be clarified clearly with just one "unless".

5.2.2 Sentence Reorganization

Sentence reorganization can be used to deal with the situation where only conjunctions cannot describe the logical relation clearly. And an example is offered as below:

[4] 夫妻一方因抚育子女、照料老年人、协助另一方工作等负担较多义务的, 离婚时有权向另一方请求补偿, 另一方应当给予补偿。

Where one spouse is burdened with additional duties for raising children, looking after the elderly, or assisting the other spouse in his work, the said spouse has the right to request for compensation upon divorce against the other party, and the other party shall make due compensation.

In this instance, "因" functions as a linking expression to reveal a causal relationship, which is aimed at elucidating a series of "additional duties" leading to the "due compensation". However, if we translate "因" into "because of" literally, the sentence would be too redundant to understand. Therefore, a typical sentence pattern in legal English, which starts with "where", is introduced to handle the problem.

6. CONCLUSION

The goal of this study is to look into the features of conjunctions in the translation text of the Chinese Family Law, and then propose a series of skills to deal with conjunction translation. It appears to be the first study to analyze conjunctions applied in the translation of Chinese family law, which is worth studying but hardly covered in the previous research. Notwithstanding, the restricted size of the corpora is a source of weakness in this study that could have influenced the measures of conjunctions. Since the number of tokens running into the corpus is small, the data deviation is inescapable in the research. For the same reason, the translation methods proposed in this paper cannot handle all cases occurred in legal texts. Therefore, what is needed is larger amounts of data on conjunctions in various types of legal texts. More information would aid us in establishing a higher level of accuracy on this subject.

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