

## A Study on the Strategies and Principles of General News Transediting

**Yangyi Wang**

School of Foreign Languages,  
China West Normal University,  
Nanchong, China  
Email: [291781664@qq.com](mailto:291781664@qq.com)

### **Abstract:**

*News transediting belongs to a method of translation by both translating and editing. This is a process in which news written in the source language is transformed into the target language. It is not just a change in language but a rewriting for the readers. Furthermore, news transediting also involves news-writing skills including objective reporting, in-time reporting and the inverted pyramid form.*

*This thesis focuses on the strategies and principles of general news transediting. All the examples included in it are from the author's transediting manuscripts in the Channel "Weird News" on Global Times. It intends to summarize the strategies and principles that a transeditor would use during the process of transediting. In the first part of the thesis, the author gives an overall view of general news, including its goals, principles and the requirements. The main idea of the second part is about the definition and targeted readers of transediting. The last part shows several examples of transediting by using the author's transediting manuscripts and analyzes the strategies and principles a transeditor should abide by.*

*According to the thesis, the purpose of transediting is to enable the target readers to acquire most of the original information in the source news. Transeditors ought to stick to the principles of partial equivalence and total equivalence, cutting and conversing, adding and omitting as well as recasting and rewriting. Meanwhile, they should also give free rein to the communicative and informative functions of transediting.*

**Key words:** general news; principles and strategies of transediting; news writing

## Introduction

As the process of globalization is accelerating now, readers from home and abroad are paying more and more attention to foreign news reporting. Therefore, transediting seems increasingly vital day by day. Transeditors must own news-writing skills including objective reporting, in-time reporting and the inverted pyramid form as well as transediting skills.

Professor Liu Qizhong from Hong Kong Shue Yan University once stated that “News transediting belongs to a method of translation by both translating and editing. This is a process in which news written in the source language will be transformed into the target language. It is not just a kind of change in language but a rewriting for the readers”.<sup>i</sup>

The strategies and principles of general news transediting will be introduced in this thesis including the method of partial equivalence and total equivalence, cutting and conversing, adding and omitting as well as recasting and rewriting. Besides, the author will also discuss the communicative function and informative function of general news transediting for readers.

## I. A Brief Review of General News

News is packaged information about current events and general news is about the things that happened in our daily life such as car accidents or air strikes and so on. In social science, news is the event which happened recently and has the value of broadcasting.<sup>ii</sup> In ancient times, news for the general public often traveled orally via monks, travelers, town criers, etc. Besides, it was also transmitted in public gathering places, such as the Greek forum and the Roman baths. Starting in England, coffeehouses served as important sites for the spread of news, even after telecommunications became widely available. In the Muslim world, people often gather and exchange news at mosques and other social places. The first written news around the world may have originated in the eighth century B.C. China, where reports gathered by officials were eventually compiled as the *Spring and Autumn Annals*. Nowadays, news can be broadcast through various communication channels such as internet, television, radio, newspapers or magazines.

Talking about news, we would not avoid mentioning some famous news agencies all over the world. They are the places where attractive and latest news are produced. For instance, Associated Press (AP), Reuters, Agence France-Presse (AFP), Interfax, DowJones Newswires, Bloomberg News, DPA, UPI, etc. Besides, Voice of America (VOA) of the United States and British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) of the United Kingdom are other two well-known channels for the public to obtain the latest news that happened on the earth.

Generally speaking, there are two kinds of news: hard news and soft news. The former one is about political, economic and scientific news in the world while the latter one is about entertainment and unusual news of our daily life. General news mentioned in this thesis belongs to soft news. There are five necessary elements of news: who, what, why, where and when. Any piece of news must contain those five elements. Besides, when writing a piece of news, one should also abide by the three important features of news writing: public, propaganda and timely. In terms of the structure of news, most of the news has both headlines and sub-headlines.

### **A. Targets and Principles of General News**

News is a fresh report of events, facts or opinions that people had no idea of its content before reading it. A number of people would have interests in it and the best news is that which can attract the largest number of people's interest. Therefore, it is obvious to see that the targets of news report are people, namely the readers. As for the general news which belongs to soft news, the targets are actually the ordinary people.

People are the targets as well as the sources of news. Therefore, talking about the morality of news report, reporters should show respect for the people who are involved in the stories they report and provide maximum recovery of the truth for the readers. The main part of news is led by the headline and it should be connected with headline closely. This main part involves enough information and specific examples. It must shape a clear and vivid image for the readers and make the readers comprehend the whole story more easily by using each word correctly and effectively.

A special rule of news writing is "Let the fact speak itself". It means that news reporters should use facts to prove the reality of the news such as using statistics in the headline. Why so? First of all, "Let the fact speak itself" conforms to the cognitive regularity of readers. From practice to reality, readers need clear facts instead of obscure sentences. Secondly, "Let the fact speak itself" meets the readers' acceptance psychology. News comes from facts and facts are essential elements which help to shape news. Thirdly, news is an invisible idea about events that happened in our daily life. Readers could express his or her opinions on one event through the process of reading news. At last, "Let the fact speak itself" is the only reliable weapon to earn the priority.

On the other side, there are some news reporters who do not abide by the principles of news writing mentioned above. For example, they express views and thoughts which are too much subjective in the news they publish. Besides, when talking about something important, they do not clarify the specific place where the events happened or the time when the events took place. Failing to capture the most vivid picture in the whole news is another example of disobeying the principles of news writing.

How to make "Let the fact speak itself" easier to realize? There are several tips that news reporters must know. The first one is to use the third person point of view. News reporters should describe the whole story by putting themselves in others' position. Secondly, they should remember to mark the source where they get this news and try their best to state all the facts as much as possible. Thirdly, they should be careful with the balance of the news' writing. Fourthly, they should make the whole picture of the news reporting more vivid and attractive by describing details. Last but not the least, reporters could use the method of comparison.

### **B. Requirements for General News Translation**

To complete a perfect general news translation, one must know the requirements of general news writing. News writing must insist on authenticity and improve the sense of public's reliance. The content of news should contain both elaborate details and macro conclusion. Besides, news writing must insist on freshness as well as timelessness. News reporter should pay attention to the

latest political, economic, business, military, sports or social events and expose them to the public immediately. When writing an article, the journalist should pursue “New point”. That means reporters should report the matter from different angles and these angles must be “New” for the readers. Furthermore, if an article contains several different news in it, the journalist had better put the most significant one at initial paragraphs. Thirdly, the reporter should focus on the proximity, interest and bizarreness of news when choosing the theme he or she will write. Fourthly, reporters should be careful with the words they use. Make the words more acceptable for the public and avoid using rare words or expressions. The language they use must be in a regular way. At last, reporters should make the whole article more concise and to the point. Looking back to the news report after the Second World War, Associated Press (AP) cut down the lead of news from 27 words to 23 words. There are several tips for making the article more concise. Among the synonyms, use the shortest and more frequently-used one. Use simple sentences instead of compound sentences. Use proper verbs to enhance the sense of language. For example, reporters should use such an expression as “The car is red” instead of “The color of the car is red” , “The year is ending ” instead of “The year is drawing to an end”. In terms of omitting unnecessary expressions, the journalist ought to avoid clumsy expressions. For instance, it should be “Bouquet” instead of “Bouquet of flowers”.

### **1. Cultural Elements Needed in General News Translation**

Translation is the communication of the meaning of a source-language text by means of an equivalent target-language text. When doing translation work, translators must adhere to the principle of translation, namely faithfulness, expressiveness and elegance. Faithfulness requires the translator to convey the original content fully and completely. In terms of expressiveness, translators can not make any grammatical or logical mistakes and they should make the content easy to understand. The last principle “elegance” demands the translator to use proper words to beautify the translated work.

When translating general news from one language to the other one, translators must master the cultural knowledge of both original language and target language. “Language has very close connection with people’s social life and culture. On one hand, language belongs to one kind of social phenomena and it is a tool for people’s communication. On the other hand, language moves in synchronism with culture. If there’s no language, there’s no culture. Today’s translation can be called a kind of social activity and it is also the communication and link between different cultures.”<sup>iii</sup> Therefore, as a translator, he or she must has bilingual skills and know very well of bi-cultures or even multinational cultures. A translator must regard himself or herself as the bridge which links the cultures of the two countries.

Big differences lie in the cultures of English-speaking countries and China. Therefore, the usage of English words and Chinese characters should also be different. For example, it is known that Britain is an island country and the word “sea” has great significance in its culture. British people always use “all at sea” to describe a person who has already been caught in an embarrassing

situation and does not know what he should do. Besides, to describe a person who is doing something meaningless, the British always say “to fish in the air”.

When talking about culture, there is one thing we cannot avoid. That is “religion”. It is obvious to see that the differences of religions between China and English-speaking countries are huge too. There are a number of English words related to Christianity, “go to church” means to hold a wedding ceremony and “as poor as a church mouse” means the condition of a family is too poor to live. Buddhism has a long history in China and it has profound and everlasting effect for Chinese people. Therefore, many Chinese idioms and phrases are about Buddhism or use the words related to the Buddhist Scriptures. From here we see that English and Chinese have their own unparalleled thinking habits, expressions and vocabulary.

## **2. Professional Knowledge Needed in General News Translation**

A good translator must grasp three ways to make a perfect translating work. The first method is “word to word translation” or “literal translation”. With the accelerating process of globalization, people from all countries are becoming more and more willing to accept each other’s culture and living habits.

The second method is “word to word translation plus comments or explanation”. When meeting with the words or expressions which only exist in one culture, translator should add some explanations to make the readers understand smoothly. And the explanations have to contain the background of the original language. Take several Chinese words for example. In the traditional Chinese calendar, the day which marks one of the 24 divisions of the solar year is called “solar terms” while the culture of English-speaking countries does not contain such expressions. It is a good time for the readers to examine whether the translator is professional or not. When translating the solar term “雨水” into English, the translator should not only offer the translation “Rain water” but also mark the background knowledge. In terms of English, the phrase “to eat no fish” does not mean that we should not eat fish for food but that we should be “loyal” instead. The reason for this meaning has a long history and it requires the translator to have professional knowledge of both the original and target language.

The last method is “free translation”. This method applies for the situation in which the differences between various cultures should be considered carefully and word to word translation cannot reflect the original content very well. The word “red” in the Chinese culture has the meaning of “being jubilant”. When describing a person whose health condition is good, if the translator uses the method of “word to word translation”, the translation will be “Your face is very red.” However, in proper English expression, it should be “you look so healthy and full of pep”. By using wrong method of translation, it would be very easy for translators to make misunderstandings and mistakes.

## **II. A Brief Review of Transediting**

Transediting, as a very common translation method of news editing, should be done by abiding by the skills of translation. It lays great importance on edit, statement and translation. Different from abridged translation, when doing transediting work, transeditors must grasp the knowledge of writing and make all the transediting materials well-organized. The definition of transediting varies from person to person. Some people describe it as a process of editing and translating. Others state that transediting is a re-creative course during which the transeditor must acquire a clear comprehension of the original text at first. Besides, there is also such an opinion that transediting work is just maintaining the same theme and changing the structure of original context casually.

The biggest disagreement over transediting is that whether editing is before translating or after. Actually, these two ways all belong to the broad transediting method. According to the broad definition of translation that “understanding is translating”, the translating activities which on the premise of understanding original context belong to “translating before editing”. Furthermore, the research of transediting is made up of two parts, namely macroscopic research and microscopic research. The scope of macroscopic research includes the background, history, existing proof, applying range, effects and strategies of transediting; the scope of microscopic research includes techniques, literary styles, languages of transediting and the changeable structure of original content.

### **A. Definition of Transediting**

According to the statistics, there are fifteen English corresponding terms for “编译”. They are translation, reader-friendly translation, translation and edition, translating and editing, transediting, editing-translating, editing and translation, edition translation, edited translation, editing translation, adapted translation, adaptation, compilation and condensed translation, etc.

The term “transediting” was created by Karen Stetting who is an expert in the research of news transediting.<sup>iv</sup> What’s more, Professor Liu Qizhong from Hong Kong Shue Yan University once stated that “News transediting belongs to a method of translation by both translating and editing. This is a process in which news written in source language will be transformed into target language. It is not just a kind of change in language but a rewriting for the readers”.<sup>v</sup> It is obvious to see that transediting is made up of two parts namely translation and edition. Translation is the foundation and basis of edition while edition is the purpose and final result of translation.

Transediting is one form and method of translation. Transeditors must do the translating and editing work at the same time. It requires them to be superior in point of foreign-passage reading, relevant specialized knowledge and the ability to analyze and summarize. Transeditors should have a thorough grasp of the original text and represent it in another language smoothly and faithfully. They pick out the most valuable information from the original text and abide by the general rule to construct the targeted text.

## 1. The Origin of Transediting

Since the 1980s, experts in China have started to pay close attention to transediting and carried out a number of researches. In the year 1986, Wei Yi, Jia Xiang and Tong Jun proposed the definition of transediting and summarized the characteristics and existing forms of transediting in the magazine named *Translation Communication*. In the same year, Kuang Riqiang published an article in *Shanghai Science Translation* to give a summary of his practical experiences in science transediting. In the year of 1988, Zhan Yingmin delivered an essay to summarize the forms and methods of transediting in the magazine *Shanghai Science Translation*. A year later, Huang Hansheng published the report “Some problems of Scientific Message Transediting” in *Shanghai Science Translation*. In this article, he summarized a large number of problems which he had met in the process of scientific-material transediting. Together with other articles, the articles mentioned above are considered as the starting point of China’s transediting research.

## 2. The Development of Transediting

Nowadays, it is well-known that news transediting seems increasingly important to public media. On one hand, the rapid development of media urgently needs large number of news translators. On the other hand, students whose major is news studying do not have the opportunity to attend news translation courses offered by professional teachers who are good at news translation in universities. All the conditions mentioned above lead to the shortage of talented news translators. Facing up to these conditions of news translation teaching, Pecking University was the first university in China to adopt measures to solve the problems. So far, It has set up three courses which are related to news translation, namely “News Writing in English Based on Information in Chinese”, “English News Writing ” and “News Translation in Chinese and English”. All these courses help the graduates to have the ability of news editing, bilingual news writing as well as news transediting.

## B. Aims and Targets of Transediting

With the rapid development of information technology, the relationship between people and information has become closer and closer. The easiest channel for common people to obtain information is news. Through news, a reporter can express his or her opinion on the latest events or famous celebrities. To put it in an easy way, news is a piece of information in which readers can acquire the information they want to or need to know.

Meanwhile, news transediting is a rather vital form of news translation. Therefore, transediting can help to make the readers accept the original news easily and obtain the original information to a great extent. Without the help of transediting, language B readers would not get full understanding of language A news and this is also an obstacle for readers to obtain the information that one piece of news can provide. Generally speaking, the aims of transediting includes conveying meanings of language A news as well as clarifying the information remained in language A news.

In terms of the targets of transediting, due to the fact that transediting is served as one important form of translation, the objective of transediting is the same as that of translation, namely readers. The reason for the existence of transediting is that readers are able to grasp the general content of original content without big misunderstanding and serious informative omission.

### III. The Strategies and Principles of General News Transediting

A Chinese professor Fan Zhongying who teaches English once stated the definition of translation in his book *A Course in Practical Translation* that translation plays the role of a bridge which serves as a link between different languages in the process of thoughts communication of human beings.<sup>vi</sup> And translation can make people who speak various languages carry out communication through the reproduction of original content and people are able to experience the common feeling which the readers of the original texts have. This definition is more overall than others due to the fact that Mr. Fan has defined translation from both macroscopic and microscopic perspectives.

Referring to the definition of translation, the definition of news translation is easy to obtain. In the process of news translation, the translator rewrites the news from language A to language B and makes the readers of language B grasp most of the original information as well as the chance to get similar education, idea and even the literary enjoyment that language A readers have gotten. Towards this, one question might be raised: why the readers of both A and B language could have similar instead of the same understanding of the original content. There are there explanations. Firstly, the cultural background of both language A and language B reporters is greatly different; Secondly, the readers of both language A and language B belong to different social groups and their conditions are not same; Thirdly, the two languages have their own specific features and unique characteristics. Therefore, it is impossible for the reporters to deliver the same information from two totally different languages. Take the “September 11 attacks” for example. Reporters around the world came to the United States to deliver this piece of shocking news by using their own mother language. Nevertheless, the reactions they received from their readers were not the same.

In order to gain news transediting experiences, the author has worked as a transeditor in the channel “Weird News” of *Global Times* since April, 2015 to August, 2015. During the five months’ internship, 60 pieces of news transediting manuscripts have been completed with a total amount of 20834 words and most of these transediting manuscripts belong to general news. The website *Global Times* has offered a good stage for the learning of the news-transediting skills. By practicing day by day, the author has had gradually got to know the techniques of news writing and editing. It is also realized that in order to present a perfect transediting work, the author should be capable of using the correct strategies of transediting skillfully. For example, when meeting with long and complicated English sentences, the author must change them into short but concise sentences and make them conform to the acquirement of news writing at the same time. In doing so, the author should use corresponding strategies of transediting such as cutting and rewriting which will be discussed as followed. Furthermore, the author has also found that correct principles should also be



paid attention to, namely the communicative principle and informative principle.

Generally speaking, importance should be laid on certain strategies and principles when we are doing news transediting. Combined with the author's own transediting manuscripts in *Global Times*, this thesis lists several examples for a better explanation of how the strategies of news transediting are used and what importance the principles of transediting have.

### **A. Strategies of General News Transediting**

When doing news transediting, transeditors must know the fundamental structure of news report well. Thus, transeditors can grasp the common organization of news writing and create more acceptable news reports. The structure of news is its frame which includes the order of various pieces of news as well as the inter-connection of these different news materials. One piece of news is made up three parts, namely the lead, main body and conclusion. News lead is the first and the most important part of a piece of complete news. Main body consists of several news materials. To make the transition from the lead to main body smoother and more natural, reporters always use some transitional words such as “however”, “but”, “meanwhile”, “at the same time” or “for present time”, etc. between the two parts. As for the conclusion, especially in news written in the inverted pyramid form, conclusion is not necessarily used.

When talking about news writing, the term which should be put stress on is the inverted pyramid structure. “Perhaps 80 percent of the stories in today's newspaper and almost 100 percent of the stories on news services for target audience such as the financial community are written in the inverted pyramid form.”<sup>vii</sup> It is a kind of news structure which is similar to an inverted pyramid. From the lead, main body to conclusion, the degree of importance is on the decrease.

### **1. Partial Equivalence and Total Equivalence**

Great advantages can be found in the partial equivalent sentences when doing bilingual general news translation. This method is usually used in the condition when words have more than one meaning or the meaning of the words is obscure. There is another situation when partial equivalence should be put into consideration. That is when the words' meanings are restricted by the structure of sentences. We all know that it is impossible for a word to go without its context and it is context that makes the words' meaning changeable. This formula is more common to see in English. For example, the Chinese character “舍” is translated into “abandon” in the context of “舍弃”. However, in the context of “舍己为人”, “舍” should be translated into “sacrifice” for the whole phrase means “sacrifice one's interest for the sake of others”.<sup>viii</sup> Therefore, the same word will have different meanings under different contexts.

As for total equivalence, the translation equivalence theory should not be avoided. The concept of TE has been an essential issue not only in translation theory over the last 2000 years, but also in modern translation studies.<sup>ix</sup> Any transeditor ought to make his or her translation manuscript as close as possible to the source text.

## 2. Cutting and Conversing

Cutting is one skill of transediting which can be used for any sense group on the principle of promising the fluency of translation version. Generally speaking, the most common places for cutting is (1) between a rather long subject and its predicate verb; (2) between a predicate verb and a rather long object; (3) between a rather long attributive phrase or attributive clause and its preposition; (4) between an adverbial and the trunk of the sentence; (5) between a rather long coordinate component; (6) between a rather long subjective component and objective component.<sup>x</sup> This transediting method plays an important role in preventing the translation from retarding. When translating news from English into Chinese, translators should obey the writing habit of Chinese article. The best amount of Chinese characters in one sentence is seven to fifteen or so. Suppose one sentence contained one subject and multiple predicate verbs, translators ought to use comma or semicolon to cut the original English sentence.

Conversing is also a common method which is widely used by transeditors. In many cases, conversion is a necessary strategy for achieving the flexible words using. However, it will lead to the loss of form equity. Nevertheless, it is still treated as one of the most significant adaptation of morphology and syntax. The most common conversion is between noun and verb as well as preposition and verb.<sup>xi</sup> The reason for this is that verbs take an advantage in Chinese while nouns and prepositions take the advantage in English.

### Example 1

**Source Text:** Espinoza was arrested in Chesterfield County for trying to manufacture, sell, give or distribute more than 10 kilograms of cocaine hydrochloride by concealing it in the drum of a dryer.

**Translated Version:** 该男子此前因制造、贩卖和散布超过 10 公斤的可卡因而遭美国维吉尼亚州警方逮捕。

In the source text, there is a rather long adverbial phrase and a short predicate verb. If translated into Chinese just according to the original order of the sentence, the translation text would not be suitable for Chinese readers to accept. Thus, the transeditor changed the order of the sentence into a relatively acceptable and proper one, describing the cause of the crime first and then the effect the criminal got by using the method of cutting.

### Example 2

**Source Text:** Because certain body modification practices break intact skin and mucus membranes through cutting, burning and piercing, there is an increase in the risk of scarring, hemorrhaging and psychological trauma as well as exposure and infection with blood borne pathogens, such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV," David Jensen told the National Post website.

**Translated Version:** 此外，加拿大安大略省卫生及长期护理部门发言人表示说，这种肉雕会对人体的健康产生威胁。由于伤口长时间暴露于空气中，极易引发感染等风险。而这种破坏表层皮肤粘膜的行为，也极大地增加了皮肤出血、心理创伤和感染血源性病原体如乙肝、丙肝和艾滋病等等问题的风险。

The word “increase” is used as a noun in the source text while the translator converted it into a verb for the aim of text fluency in the translation text. Due to the fact that verbs take an advantage in Chinese while nouns and prepositions take the advantage in English, using verb well accords with the principle of Chinese writing.

### 3. Adding and Omitting

The significance of adding and omitting is less than that of conversing. These two methods are often used in the restructure of sentences. They have the functions of adding or omitting the semantic representation, polishing the figure of speech and literary form, optimizing the language structure and enhancing the communicative function. There are great differences between the modes of thinking in English and Chinese as well as characteristics of language structure. Besides, the sense of language and habitual expressions of English and Chinese also vary a lot. The positive effects of amplification and omission are (1) being beneficial to an overall change of semantic representation; (2) helping to optimize the language structure on a fairly large scale; (3) contributing to improving the quality of target translation version; (4) being advantageous to the aesthetic participant of readers.<sup>xii</sup>

### Example 3

**Source Text:** Nicolae Marginean says his children are now putting on even more weight because he can't afford to feed them healthy food. A distraught father has accused the mother of his three children of walking out on them because she couldn't deal with the stress of them being overweight.

**Translated Version:** 据英国《镜报》4月13日报道，在罗马尼亚东南部的博托沙尼县里，一名育有三个超重孩子的母亲由于不堪生活重负弃家而去。孩子们的父亲则称因自己独自养家，无法支付减肥所用的保健品，从而导致孩子超重的情况更加严重了。

In the source text, the author elaborates the basic background of this poor family with the mother running away from home and remained a distraught father. In the translation text, for making the whole description more complete and clear to the readers, the translator added the attribute “独自养家” (the father raises home on his own) to shape the image of a despaired father.

### 4. Recasting and Rewriting

For translators, as the most hard translation method, recasting and rewriting is too difficult to grasp. Usually, this method is the last to adopt under the circumstance that all the other techniques cannot apply for the translation. When using the method of recasting and rewriting, translators ought to possess a comprehensive understanding of the original content and adjust it flexibly. Furthermore, translators should also rearrange the original article on the basis of an overall mastery of the vital information and key points contained in the original content. And they should convey the information to the readers according to their own style.

**Example 4**

**Source Text:** Essex Police asked the Brandler Galleries in Brentwood to cover the expletive following a complaint about a painting in the window featuring a four-letter word from a passer-by. Mr Brandler, who has owned the gallery for more than 30 years, fumed in the Brentwood Gazette: “There are 60,000 people in Brentwood and one person can object to something and by law it has to be removed. I think they are bonkers. Someone has gone by my window and complained because she found it offensive. One person can override 60,000.”

**Translated Version:** 英国警方勒令该画廊将脏字遮盖，而该画廊的负责人则对此判决表示十分不满。他表示，因一个人的看法就改变整个画作的风格，掩盖画作最初的创作理念，这样的决断未免有失偏颇。

The explanation stated by the owner of the gallery in the source text is tediously long and not concise. In the translation text, the transeditor chose to rewrite it into a relative summing-up sentence and lay stress on the opinion he wanted to express most. To translate with ease and grace, rewriting can help to make the structure of the whole translation text clearer and make the core values of original text outstanding.

**Example 5**

**Source Text:** It was worrying: the young woman started having difficulty comprehending things she read and heard, and when many people were speaking in a room at once, she found it hard to understand what was happening. Doctors soon discovered a tumor in her brain.

**Translated Version:** 据悉，这名女生由于突发的理解力退化状况而赴医院进行医治。她起初被诊断为脑瘤.....。

In the resource text, the sentence “when many people were speaking in a room at once, she found it hard to understand what was happening” can be treated as an example and explanation of the previous sentence. Therefore, these two sentences can be rewritten into one sentence in the translation text. With the following sentence which mentions the doctor’s examination, the transeditor summarizes that the young woman went to see a doctor and received the medical check up in the method of rewriting.

**B. Principles of General News Transediting**

The principle of general news transediting must be in accordance with the principle of translation, namely faithfulness, expressiveness as well as elegance. However, based on the author’s experience of news transediting in Global Times, it is believed that general news transediting has its unique features, rich in content and succinct in style. For this reason, the transediting of general news should have terse statement, short sentences, simple and unadorned style and common expression.

### **1.Free Rein to Communicative Function**

General news transediting must give free rein to its communicative function. Transeditors communicate with readers through the transediting manuscripts. For all the transediting of general news, the lead plays an important role in the conveying process of information. To write a proper lead, transeditors must abide by the communicative principle of news. First of all, the length of a lead must be less than 35 words. Secondly, transeditors have to complete the lead in one or two sentences in English (for Chinese news, the lead should be less than four sentences) and avoid using “where” or “when” at the very start of the news. The common mode of one lead is “someone did something at someplace” or “something happened at someplace during sometime”. Thirdly, transeditors must follow the writing order that the latest effects of the event should be stated at first and then the reason why it could happen.

### **2.Free Rein to Informative Function**

General news transediting must give free rein to its informative function. When doing general news transedition, the information which readers feel perplexed at or the materials which have less significance to the theme of the news can be left out. If the most parts of the news are Chinese political documents or Chinese speech draft, transeditors must use expressions which are easy to be understood.

### **Conclusion**

With the rapid development of media, more and more people have access to news written in foreign languages. Meanwhile, transedition has become one of the most common methods which news reporters choose to use when editing news from one language to another. Thus, mastering the principles and strategies of general news transediting seems to be increasingly important for the news transeditors.

As a general news transeditor, he or she must grasp the definition of transediting. According to Professor Liu Qizhong from Hong Kong Shue Yan University, News transediting belongs to a method of translation by both translating and editing. This is a process in which news written in the source language will be transformed into the target language. It is not just a kind of change in language but a rewriting for the readers. In terms of the correct translation of “编译”, experts have shown fifteen different types of it. For instance, translation, reader-friendly translation, translation and edition, translating and editing, transediting, editing-translating, editing and translation, edition translation, edited translation, editing translation, adapted translation, adaptation, compilation and condensed translation, etc.

Furthermore, transeditors should also have the knowledge of news writing especially the inverted pyramid form. It belongs to a kind of news structure in which the lead plays the most important role while conclusion owns the least significance. For a piece of news, structure is its frame which includes the order of various pieces of news information as well as the inter-connection of these different news materials and lead is the first and the most important part

of a piece of complete news.

Besides, transeditors ought to grasp the basic principles and strategies of general news transediting. In this thesis, the author shows to the readers four different strategies of general news transediting, namely partial equivalence and total equivalence, cutting and conversing, adding and omitting as well as recasting and rewriting. Each of the strategies is followed with examples which are from the author's own transediting manuscript in Global Times. With the help of examples, readers can understand better how to put these transediting methods into practice. Besides, the free rein given to the communicative function and informative function are also two vital elements of news writing.

Last but not least, there are still a few shortcomings in the thesis. First of all, journalism is a completely new field for English major students. When talking about news writing, the author is faced with the problem of lacking specialized vocabulary. Secondly, the depth of research in this thesis is far from enough. Most of the opinions on news writing and transediting are still plain. Thirdly, the examples listed in the thesis can hardly be entirely suitable for the corresponding principles which are put forward in the third part of the thesis. To grasp the overall knowledge of transediting, the author should learn more theories of news writing and news editing as possible.

#### **Reference:**

1. Lowery, Shearon A., and Defleur Melvin L.. *Milestone in Mass Communication Research*. Beijing:China Renmin University Press, 2003.
2. Nida, Eugene A., and Taber Charles R.. *The Theory and Practice of Translation*. Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press, 2004.
3. Newmark, Peter. *A Textbook of Translation*. Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press, 2001.
4. Vivian, John. *The Media of Mass Communication*. Beijing: Pecking University Press, 2005.
5. Wilss, Wolfram. *The Science of Translation Problems and Methods*. Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press, 2001.

