

本刊英语摘要原稿错误分析——中文思维式的英语表达

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近年来我国编辑出版的医学期刊中,多数在其登载的论文开头均配有英语摘要,以利于国际检索和国外读者。大部分论文作者具有用英语写作摘要的初步能力,这是一个可喜的现象。然而,不可否认他们的英语写作能力目前还不能很好地满足客观要求,表现为写出的摘要在语言文字上存在的问题较多,词不达意和语法错误随处可见,需经专人进行加工或修改。为了与我国国力不断加强、国际地位不断提高相适应,广大医学人员需要努力在全面提高外语水平的基础上扎扎实实提高写作能力。了解自己存在哪些错误和不足,是改进和提高的一种有效途径。本刊去年曾就如何写好论文英语摘要发表了 5 篇系列讲座,今年准备在此基础上进一步结合来稿摘要中的错误进行分析指导,共分 4 篇。文章所用材料全部选自近年来笔者负责审校的摘要原始稿件,针对性较强,想必会有所帮助。

英语摘要来稿中的语言错误涉及面广,我们做了选择和分类从几个主要方面进行分析,希望通过关键问题,有效地带动语言运用能力的提高。首先,本篇要讨论的是中文思维式的英语表达。许多中国人在英语写作的初期阶段,往往自觉或不自觉按照中文的思维方式来安排语序和句子结构,违背了英语固有的表达方式,因而写出一般所谓的“中文式的英文”。必须指出,同一思想内容,不同的语言表达有时相同,但大多是不同的,我们应当在学习过程和表达应用时特别注意这一点。下面结合一些实例进行分析。

1. 中文式语序应修正为英语语序

原稿: Retrospectively analyze LAVA images of 22 cases prostate cancer confirmed by clinical pathology.

改正: LAVA images of 22 cases of prostate cancer confirmed by clinical pathology were retrospectively analyzed.

原稿: Analysing the outcome of chest CT scan and fluoroscopy in two groups and calculating the veracious rate of diagnosis.

改正: The results of chest CT scan and fluoroscopy in the two groups were analyzed and the veracious rates of diagnosis were calculated.

解释:上面两句错误相同,均按中文译成英语主动,前者用不定式短语,后者用动名词短语。其实,都应该改用谓语形式,而且是过去时被动,因为摘要中 Methods 一栏说明的是实验曾经采用的方法,习惯用被动形式。

原稿: The changes of blood flow has some rules in time and space after focal cerebral ischemia.

改正: There are some rules for the change of blood flow in time and space after.....

解释:不能千篇一律地将中文“有”译成 have (has),表示客观存在的“有”应译为 there is 一类的表达。

原稿: 71.43% found chronic paranasal rhinitis by CT examination of accessory nasal cavity.

改正: Chronic paranasal sinusitis was found by CT examination of accessory nasal sinus in 71.43% of all cases.

解释:原稿开头系按中文直译,英语是大错误。谓语句动词用了 found,就必须以 Chronic paranasal sinusitis 为主语,而且谓语要用被动形式。

原稿: CT enhancement scan and perfusion scan were performed in 31 patients who were diagnosed cervical cancer in our hospital.

改正: CT enhancement scan and perfusion scan were performed in 31 patients who were diagnosed as having cervical cancer in our hospital.

原稿: When the clinical doctor consider the patient foreign bodies in respiratory path, to find exact and fast diagnosis, the best way is CT.

改正: When a clinical doctor considers the patient as having foreign bodies in air passages, the best way to find an exact and fast diagnosis is CT.

解释:前面两句问题相同,“诊断某人患某病”变成英语后中间应加 as having。不同的是前句为被动,病人做了句子的主语。

2. 中文一句中两个谓语,英语应仅保留一个

原稿: Twenty-two cases of nasopharyngeal carcinoma underwent CT and MRI examinations were analyzed retrospectively.

改正: Twenty-two cases of nasopharyngeal carcinoma undergoing CT and MRI examinations were analyzed retrospectively.

原稿: 67 cases had small bronchiectasis, manifested small bronchiolar double track signs and small crico-lucency signs.

改正: 67 cases had small bronchiectasis, manifesting small bronchiolar double track signs and small ring-like lucencies.

原稿: The CT images of consecutive 100 people participated in low-dose CT screening for lung cancer were read by MIP, TS and MIP+TS respectively.

改正: The CT images of consecutive 100 people participat-

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ting in low-dose CT screening for lung cancer were read by MIP, TS and MIP+TS respectively.

原稿: There were 32 patients with vascular disease, arterial stenosis and aneurysm near skull base were revealed better by BSCTA.

改正: In 32 patients with vascular disease, the arterial stenosis and aneurysm near skull base were revealed to be better by BSCTA.

解释: 中文句中的动词没有特殊的谓语形式, 英语则有明确的谓语形式和非谓语形式。上面的句子基本上都是按中文机械式地译成英语, 句中出现了两个谓语, 它们在意义上既非并列(用 and 连接), 又不是属于两个句子(或其中有一个从句), 因而是非常错误的英语句子, 须将其中一个变成非谓语形式(如现在分词, 不定式等)或取消。

3. 中文的“是”、“有”等, 英语有时须用“to be”, “to have”以外的词语

原稿: All of lesions were round-like soft tissue masses, the average size was 2.6cm×3.1cm.

改正: All of the lesions manifested round-like soft tissue masses, the average size being 2.6cm×3.1cm.

解释: 中文句中的“是”严格来说意为“表现是”、“表现为”, 故宜译为 manifest。

原稿: MSCT subtract CTA is a new technique which is safe and has no injury.

改正: MSCT digital subtraction CTA is a new technique which is safe and causes no injury.

解释: 此句中文的“没有损伤”实际含义是“不引起损伤”, 故应译为 cause。

原稿: In all volunteers, ADClow and ADChigh were significantly difference.

改正: In all volunteers, there was statistically significant difference between ADClow and ADChigh.

解释: 中文“有差异”应译为 there was difference。“显著的差异”意思是“在统计学上显著的差异”, 故译为 statistically significant difference。

原稿: When heart rate \leq 80bpm, best reconstruction phase was found in diastole (50%~90%) in 183 (79.6%) patients.

改正: When the heart rate was \leq 80bpm, best reconstruction phase was found in diastole (50%—90%) in 183 (79.6%) patients.

解释: 上句开头中文可以说“当心率 \leq 80bpm 时”, 但译成英语中间就必须加动词 was, 构成一个完整的从句。

原稿: These ADC values were calculated to compare and a-

nalysis.

改正: These ADC values were calculated for comparison and analysis.

解释: 中文译成英语, 一个词用什么形式, 要根据句子前后关系和该词的作用来决定, 与之并列的“分析”是名词, “比较”当然也要用名词。它们共同表示计算的目的, 所以前面要加 for。

原稿: The hypoglossal canal could be identified on CT as following; unilateral canal...bilateral canal...

改正: The hypoglossal canal could be identified on CT as follows; unilateral canal...bilateral canal...

解释: 中文“……如下”, 英语为习惯用语 as follows。

原稿: Renal pelvis and ureter duplication abnormality type is diverse; the pathology and images vary with whether there are complications.

改正: Renal pelvis and ureter duplication abnormalities are diverse in type; the pathology and images vary with whether there are complications.

解释: 这里原稿英语又是中文的机械翻译, 是错误英语, 要学会改正句的英语格式: “在类型上是多种多样的”。又如: 心脏呈圆锥形。The heart is conical in shape. 红细胞的直径约为 7 微米。Red cells are about 7 μ m in diameter.

4. 其他

原稿: 27 cases of MSCT images of malignant GIST proved by surgery and pathology were retrospectively analyzed.

改正: MSCT images of 27 cases of malignant GIST proved by surgery and pathology were retrospectively analyzed.

解释: 原稿主语部分是按中文语序翻译过来的, 变成英语后, 其内部关系不合逻辑, 而且与句子谓语搭配的主体不是 27 cases 而是 MSCT images.

原稿: The clinical data (18 boys, 9 girls, age range 2 days to 13 years, average age 2.6 years old) and appearances of congenital bronchopneumonic cysts of multislice spiral CT were reviewed retrospectively in 27 patients which were proved by operation and pahology.

改正: The clinical data of 27 patients (18 boys and 9 girls, age range 2 days to 13 years, average age 2.6 years) with congenital bronchopneumonic cysts proved by operation and pahology and appearances on multislice spiral CT were reviewed retrospectively.

解释: 原稿英语杂乱无章, 该连在一起的分离了, 该分离的却错误地连在了一起。除受中文思维的影响外, 缺乏对英语句子结构的掌握。