



Recognition of Nominalization in English Academic Writings and Its Translation into Chinese

FAN Linzhou^{1*}, TAN Tingting², LI Jie³

^{1*}Professor, School of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Lanzhou University, Gansu Province, China

²Teaching assistant, School of Foreign Languages of Zunyi Medical University, Guizhou Province, China

³Teaching assistant, School of General Studies, Chengdu Jincheng College, Sichuan Province, China

***Corresponding Author:** FAN Linzhou, Professor, School of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Lanzhou University, Gansu Province, China

Abstract: English academic writings with a considerable density of nominalization make the English-Chinese translation a hard job, one of the challenges is to render the source text with nominalizing expressions more explicit in the target language. On the basis of a comprehension of those complicated structures with nominalization, the authors of this paper have, under a cognitive-functional framework with Systematic Functional Linguistics and Cognitive Linguistics, attempted to recognize the cognitive mechanism underlying the process of nominalization and to crystalize its functions at ideational, interpersonal and textual levels, expounding the inherent relations in the semantic and lexico grammatical structures demonstrated in nominalization. Translation methods at the different levels are proposed, with sufficient supporting examples from the source text. By explaining the cognition and functions of English nominalization and by employing the proper translation methods, this paper is meant to be a widening of E-C translation in nominalization, which could help translators improve their translation skills, and deepen their understanding of the translation process in the translation practice.

Keywords: nominalization, cognition, functions, E-C translation methods

Abbreviations: English-Chinese: E-C, Systematic Functional Linguistics: SFL, Cognitive Linguistics: CL, Example: Ex., Theme: T, Rheme: R, Source text: ST, Target text: TT, Source language: SL, Target language: TL

1. INTRODUCTION

Academic text falls typically into informative type, which is content-focused, and one of the features of this type is represented by a high density of nominalization. Nominalization not only involves syntactical transformation, but possesses its own mechanisms in expressing information. Nominalization is a type of word formation, in which a verb or an adjective is transformed into a noun. Dealing mainly with conceptualization, scientific and technical writings have a tendency to separate such activities as “experimenting”, “measuring” and “analyzing” from abstract conceptual units, and with a tendency to push towards passive constructions, both by academic writing traditions and by writers’ desires to step aside and allow their writings to speak for themselves, these forces, thus, produce characteristic constructions. However, nominalization is less common in Chinese, therefore, in the comprehension and English-Chinese (E-C) translation of this type of texts, challenges occur. This paper aims at illustrating the cognitive mechanisms of nominalization, explaining its workings and functions under Systematic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Cognitive Linguistics (CL), discussing both semantic and lexicogrammatical shifts involved in it. Then, based on the contrastive study of nominalization in English and Chinese, the necessary translation methods are proposed at the semantic, lexicogrammatical and logical levels, endeavoring to dig out the cognitive mechanisms and functions of English nominalization and exploring its E-C translation strategies.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The materials employed to be supporting examples by this paper are those from two English-Chinese translations rendered by Li Jie and Tan Tingting respectively, and corrected by Fan Linzhou. The first one is *The Field of Cultural Production* by Pierre Bourdieu, French sociologist, and the second is the

introduction and first two chapters of *Papers in Culture Research*, a collection of academic papers on culture by Itamar Even-Zohar, an Israeli culture study scholar. The examples illustrating the points discussed in this paper are drawn from the translations.

Methods employed are qualitative and descriptive. The analysis is focused on the qualitative discussion of linguistic universals and specifics. We first study the source text type in which nominalization is one of the main features, relevant to our discussion, and we find that a number of nominalizations in the source materials which needs to be analyzed to facilitate the translation elaboration. Then English nominalization is expatiated to ensure a thorough analysis about this linguistic fact, after that, the Chinese features and their relevance to English nominalization is descriptively dealt with by comparison and contrast, so that the differences between the two languages present themselves explicitly that the elaboration of nominalization and its cognition seems to be a priority if translation between them follows. Eventually, typical instances are examined and addressed with a fairly systematic and prescriptive translation methodology on semantic shifts at the lexical, grammatical, semantic and logic levels, with functions remaining a constant. The present study undertakes an integration of qualitative and descriptive approaches, with the basic principles of SFL and CL for discussion, trying to get a balance between theoretical exploration and objective analysis, with regards to its differences between English and Chinese in focus, a fairly panoramic picture of English nominalization and its E-C translation is to be presented.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a linguistic item, nominalization is theoretically significant. Under the tenets of SFL, Halliday views nominalization as processes or properties reworded metaphorically as things (Halliday, 1984, p.352). Quirk, Greenbaum & Leech (1985, p.1288) hold that nominalization is “a noun phrase that has a systematic correspondence with a clausal predication which includes a head noun morphologically related to a corresponding verb”. Matthews proposes that the autonomy of syntax cuts off [sentence structure] from the pressures of communicative function, and the relationship between syntax and lexicon, in a degree, is “the process of deriving a noun or syntactic unit as a noun phrase from any other kind of unit, such as a verb or an adjective” (1997, p.244). By the device of nominalization, processes (congruently worded as verbs) and properties (congruently worded as adjectives) are reworded as nouns. Being process or attribute, they function as things in the nominal group. We argue, in view of translation, that nominalization is a complex and dynamic process at the cognitive level, involving semantic shifts in which processes, actions and properties are “conceptualized” as “things”, functioning statically, objectively and abstractly with the lexicogrammatical shifts, which could be conceived as “an incongruent realization of a given semantic configuration in the lexicogrammar” (Halliday, 1984. p. 321).

Langacker studied nominalization in the framework of Cognitive Grammar. He assumes that “nominalization involves a conceptual reification whose character can be explicated with reference to the notional definitions proposed for the noun and verb classes” (2004, p.22). Langacker’s hypothesis reveals two aspects of nominalization. First, the notion of conceptual reification can be roughly understood as a semantic change, which suggests that nominalization is not only a process of deriving a noun or noun phrase formally and syntactically, but also a process of changing in the semantic content. Second, the *of*-combination or the genitive case (-’s) is not only a grammatical marker of nominalization, since this shift at lexicogrammatical level reveals that there exists a transformation in the deep structure between a clause and a nominalized expression.

When different research orientations are briefly discussed, the comprehension of nominalization seems to be touched upon under the principles of SFL and CL, for they are focused on the complementary facets of nominalization in that the external functions of nominalization have been expounded in SFL, while the internal cognitive mechanism is explored in CL. As a result, the analysis of nominalization in this paper is based upon the view that language systems are both functional and cognitive. Following the illustrious exploration of SFL by Halliday and CL by Langacker, we believe that a language is interpreted as networks of intertwined elements, which serve their social and cultural needs, and the description of languages is based on their usages.

The source text type is one of the elements which have to be detected and examined before translating strategies follow, and a comprehensive analysis of the source text and its type are to be accomplished before translation methods, faithful to the source text, are worked out. Katharina Reiss classifies texts into three major types: the informative, which is content-focused, the expressive, which is form-focused, and the persuasive, which is appeal-focused (Reiss, 2004, pp. 24-25). Though clear and pellucid distinctions could not be drawn for each text, text generally falls into a predominant function, with other functions less dominant. The source texts translated by the two practitioners focus on culture and cultural production, dealing with the theory of cultural interaction and production, orientating towards academic research on the refined understanding and appreciation of art, literature and other artifacts, as a result, they fall into informative type, with the function of content focused, mainly providing information for the readership. Reiss (2004) holds that the translation of content-focused texts “requires invariance in transfer of their content”, the content and the intent of the author of the source text have to be transferred to the target text as well, so one of the appropriate strategies of translating the content-focused text is to accurately render its content or “the invariant core” (as cited in Bassnett, 2002, p.13), and one of the invariant cores of informative text type is that there exists a high density of nominalization. Anyway, nominalization is, with many derivational changes in morphological devices, often realized by the shift at the semantic and lexico-grammatical levels, which could create barriers for the E-C translation, which will be discussed later.

3.1. Cognition

Nominalization, which shifts the focus from action to concepts, is frequently resorted to in academic writings. It seems that nominalization has occupied the intermediate position between nouns and verbs. Typical nouns are those that designate names for things, persons and places, while typical verbs denote actions and processes (Halliday, 1984). Langacker (2004) has, however, made a cognitive model to shed a new light on the semantic distinctions between nouns and verbs by suggesting that all words can be categorized into two major types, viz. words for things and words for relations, in which nouns are prototypically for things while verbs, adjectives and other functional words for relations. Moreover, imagery resorted to have a better description of the world in words, that is, the human inherent ability to conceive the world. In this way, the semantic content of a verb or of a noun is often described as “a set of interconnected entities” (shown as the three parallel objects within the ellipse in Figure 1), which is abstractly schematized within a “region” (a conceptual boundary shown as a broken-line ellipse in Figure 1). In terms of the cognitive distinctions between verbs and nouns, the major difference lies in the different “profiles” (which means the prominent facet of a word) of verbs and nouns. Specifically, a verb scans the entities sequentially (shown as the heavy-line array, the imagery of time sequence) with profiling the relation among entities but without any conceptual boundaries outside the region; while a noun usually scans the entities in the region holistically without any profile of time, and its conceptual region is prototypically “bounded”.

Based on the schematic characterizations proposed for nouns and verbs, Langacker (2004) has compared the cognitive mechanism within verbs and deverbal nominalization, which is diagrammed in Figure 1 and Figure 2:

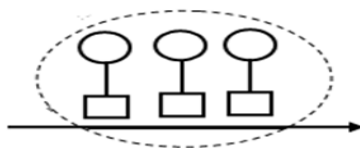


Figure 1. *The cognitive model of verbs profiling the aspect of time without any semantic boundary (Langacker, 2004, p.24)*

As is shown in Figure 1, a verb scans sequentially through time (*the heavy-line array across the ellipse*) within its domain (*the ellipse with a broken-line boundary*), so it is made up of a series of interconnecting components, each profiling a relation that can be seen as an entity (*three parallel objects inside the ellipse*).

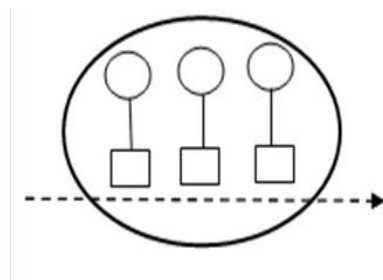


Figure 2. *The cognitive model of deverbal nominalization profiling the concept with a boundary¹ (Langacker, 2004, p.24)*

On the contrary, a nominalized pattern scans as a whole (summary scanning) regardless of time (*the broken-line array across the circle*), as is sketched in Figure 2. Furthermore, the semantic domain of nouns is “bounded”² (Shen, 1995), in which its meaning has been conceptualized while verbs “unbounded”, for their meaning of aspect, tense and voice will be influenced greatly by time.

Apart from the cognition of the deverbal nominalization, it is held that the nominalized pattern originated from adjectives, i.e. *the deadjectival nominalization*, also shares the similar cognitive mechanism. Adjectives, categorized into the “relation” type, usually expressing the dependent content in a clause, are as typically “unbounded” as verbs (Shen, 1995). However, after the process of nominalization, a deadjectival nominal structure refers to a thing or an idea which is usually worded by nouns. The cognitive process can be shown in Figure 3:

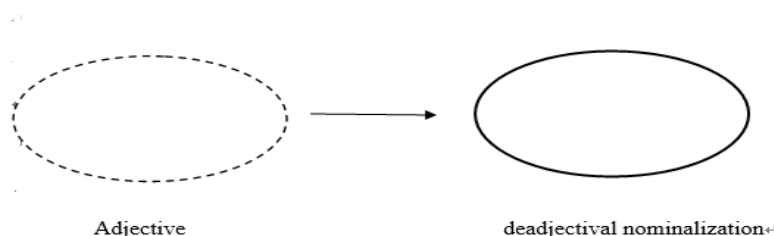


Figure 3. *The cognitive model of adjectives and deadjectival nominalization*

As is diagrammed in Figure 3, when it comes to the process of deadjectival nominalization, the semantic boundary is added to the original adjective and the property of typical nouns is also displayed in nominalization.

It seems that the transformation in the process of nominalization at the semantic level not only lies in the degree of “bounded” property, but also in the semantic continuum of expressions of “*abstract-concrete*”, “*static-dynamic*” and “*subjective-objective*”³. To be more specific, the result of nominalization tends to form abstract nouns which usually combine the quality of abstract concept with typical nouns. What is more, the process of nominalization also makes the subject of a clause implicit, which may impersonalize the diction of a text. Yao (2002) argues that the nominalization with a prepositional phrase is an efficient linguistic device to express ideas in a more abstract way. Halliday (1984) holds that by grammatical metaphor, mostly formed through nominalization, the scientific discourse may be rich in “incongruent” dictions and “general words”. Following Halliday’s metaphorical view on nominalization, Cai (2003) further points out that most “abstract structures” result from the process of nominalization and also make a representative list of abstract noun phrases, as is shown by

¹ As is shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2, the broken line refers to as the facet not profiled, while the heavy-line means the facet profiled; the ellipse is the imagery of the conceptual region; three parallel objects within the ellipse is the imagery of the semantic schema of a verb or deverbal nominalization, the array across the ellipse symbolizes the time sequence involved in the concept.

² “Bounded” is a property of nouns which can be counted or modified; while “unbounded” refers to as the inseparable and homogeneous property of words for relation. For more details of the concept of “bounded” and “unbounded”, cf. Shen, J., [Shen, Jiakuan], (1995), “‘Bounded’ and ‘Unbounded’”.

³ For more details, see Lian, Shuneng. *A Contrastive Analysis of English-Chinese* (Revised & Enlarged Edition). Beijing: Higher Education Press.

Ex.1 Establishedness, and highly visible presence in a world network, which create a high degree of interconnectedness, is among the factors of prestige.

The stem “*established*” which means “*recognized and generally accepted*” is derived into “*establishedness*”, is bounded and conceptualized through nominalization, thus being shifted semantically from a concrete word to an abstract one. “*Presence*” and “*interconnectedness*”, the other two nominalizations, are developed in the same way.

Furthermore, nominalization is also featured by the semantic shift from the “dynamic” wording to the “static” one. It is generally accepted that English tends to be expressed by nouns, thus making its discourse more static, as is shown by

Ex.2 The way was subsequently opened for the achievement of what has been regarded throughout the development of modern science as a supreme goal: the detection of the laws governing the diversity and complexity of phenomena rather than the registration and classification of these phenomena.

“*Detection*”, “*registration*”, “*classification*”, and the other underlined, are nominalized expressions derived from “*to detect*”, “*to register*” and “*to classify*”. In the process of nominalization, the markers of verbs like tense, voice and aspect have been neglected, and the deverbal nouns can be modified by “*of-combinations*”.

3.2. Lexicogrammatical Shift

Langacker (2004) has also made an analysis on the lexicogrammatical shift embedded in nominalization. He holds that the simplest type of nominalization shifts the profile of a verb to some nominal entity evoked as part of its inherent structure, which is one of the underlying parts of the inherent structure of the verb, as the following diagrams show:

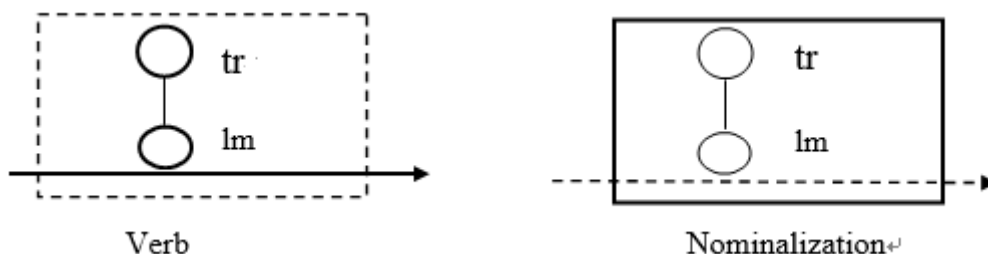


Figure 3. The lexicogrammatical shift of nominalization⁴ (Langacker, 2004, p.24)

As is shown in Figure 3, through nominalization, the original subject-predicate structure with verbs or subject-predicate-object structure has been transformed into the nominalized combination which profiles different facets of the internal structure of the original one. Specifically, a verb, being a predicate in a clause or clause complex, will definitely link the subject of the clause with its object. However, when it comes to the nominalization, especially the deverbal nominalization, the logical subject (*trajector*) or object (*landmark*¹) tends to be implicit, or at least either of them to be profiled. The most common examples to illustrate the profiled subject in nominalization are words with the suffix of “-ee”. For example, the word “*employee*” can be taken as a deverbal nominalization with the profile of landmark, since it is semantically equivalent to the clause “someone is employed for wages or by some organization”. Similarly, words with the suffix of “-or” or “-er” can also be considered as a deverbal nominalization, which profiles the logical subject, as is illustrated in the example “*employer*”. Moreover, in the content-focused text, the occurrence of nominalization with implicit subject and object may be more frequent, and the logical subject of nominalization is usually in the form of a *by*-phrase, the genitive case (-’s) or an *of*-combination, while the logical object is expressed in the form of some prepositional phrases (Zhang & Liu, 1996), as is shown by

Ex.3 First, there was no awareness of the tensions between strata within a system,....

¹ “Trajector” is a term in Cognitive Linguistics, which is defined by Langacker as “the internal subject” of a clause or a nominalized expression; while “landmark” refers to as “the internal object”.

Clearly, “*awareness*” has condensed the original clause “*people were aware of the tensions*” into “*there be*” structure with the *of*-combination, which has obscured the internal subject (*trajector*) and converted the object (*landmark*) into a prepositional phrase, as is shown by

Ex.4 The selection of a certain aggregate of features for the consumption of a certain group is therefore extraneous to that aggregates itself.

The internal subject (*trajector*) is embedded in the nominalized expression as “*a certain group*”, and the complex coordinate clause is also condensed into a simple sentence.

To sum up, as regards the semantic shift, nominalization erases the properties of tense, voice and aspect, which has bounded the abstract concept and been more static and impersonalized. With reference to the lexicogrammatical shift, the syntactical relation involved in the original clause is changed: the logical subject and object are usually expressed in the form of the genitive case (-’s) or the post-modifier like the *of*-phrases, with the overt grammatical relationship being covert.

3.3. Functions

The present study is theoretically based on cognitive-functional studies, aiming at analyzing both the cognition and function of nominalization in an integrated way. The functions of nominalization are discussed from multiple considerations, of which the most influential argument is based on Halliday’s views in SFL.

Halliday argues that “the fundamental components of meaning in language are functional components”, and that these components are called meta-functions, which are fundamental in languages, the first is ideational, which is the “content function of language”, serving to express human experience of the world (Halliday, 1984, p.183), the second is interpersonal, which is the “participatory function of language” (Halliday, 1984, p.184), expressing not only the attitudes and evaluations, but also a relation set up between the text-producer and the text-consumer (Halliday, 1984, p.189), and the third is textual, being “a resource for ensuring what is said is relevant and relates to its context” (Halliday, 1984, p.189), which is realized in information structure and cohesion. These three meta-functions are effectuated respectively by transitivity system, mood and modality, and cohesion concerning information structure and thematic structure.

The ideational meta-function fulfilled by nominalization can be subdivided into four functions. The first one is concision. Cong (2007) suggests that in the process of nominalization, the process or the property is reworded into an entity, thus clarifying the logic aspect of the argumentation in a text, which better serves the function to express human experience clearly, the second is increased lexical density, in which the nominalized pattern tends to be sort of condensed to fit into only one clause with the internal lexico-grammatical relation expressed by nouns, which is equivalent to a coordinate clause or a clause complex with subordinate clause linked by the logical connectives. Eggins (2004, p.94) demonstrates that nominalization “allows people to pack in more lexical content per sentence”. The “packing” property of nominalization also demonstrates the shift with language units, that is, the “down-rank” of a clause or a clause complex to a nominal group, as is shown by

Ex.5 The very integration of goods of whatever nature in a target system clearly makes them an occurrence of interference even though not locally produced.

The underlined nominalization “*integration*” is a deverbal noun with packing information. Eggins (2004) believes that one of the potentials of nominal groups is to be described, specified and qualified by other parts, that is, more words with information are added in clauses. However, the expansion of verbal groups does not add more information to the clause since this process has only to do with specifying non-content aspects, i.e. tense, number, aspect, voice, etc. Thus, by turning verbs and other parts of speech into nouns, the possible content of the text, i.e. the lexical density, has been increased. The third is objectivity, by turning verbs into nouns, the actor (i.e. the doer) of the clause is displaced by possessors (shown as the genitive case: -’s or *by*-phrase) which is taken as qualifiers to nouns (Cong 2007), as is shown by

Ex. 6 A considerable impetus to this method has been Bourdieu's contribution to the understanding of the nature and mechanism of the exchange of these goods.

As is shown in the example, the underlined part can be interpreted as the clause: “*Bourdieu has contributed to the understanding of the nature and mechanism of the exchange of these goods*”. The internal subject “*Bourdieu*” is changed into a genitive case, which further enhanced the objectivity of language. The fourth is formality, which he recognized as an effective formal method. The function of interpersonal meta-function is its authoritativeness. The deletion of the logic subject results to a shift of position of a clause: from a proposition to a presupposition in that the presupposition cannot be questioned or denied, making the style more authoritative, as is shown by

Ex.7 We will execute him on Monday. —~~His~~ execution will be on Monday.

The former sentence can be argued by the “yes or no” structure (e.g. —*Will you?* —*Yes, we will.* —*No, we won't*), which is termed as “polarity” of a cause in SFL. However, by the process of nominalization (*execute-execution*), the proposition of the former clause has been converted into an indisputable entity or fact.

The textual meta-function in a discourse is mostly realized by its cohesion and coherence. The “Theme-Rheme” structure and lexical repetitions are major types of the cohesive devices. Theme (T) refers to the departure of a message, usually indicated by its position, while the part of a clause which Theme develops is considered as Rheme (R). The cohesive function of the nominalization in texts is mainly by establishing the model of “T1→R1”, in which the preposition or part of the content of the preposition is converted into the theme of the next sentence (Halliday, 1984), as is shown by

Ex. 8 ... , “goods” may be considered as “organizers” only indirectly, that is, when converted, into tools. ... This conversion entails the making of models from symbolical values.

The nominal structure “*conversion*” which makes reference to the verb “*convert*”, is used to emphasize the focus of the first sentence. In this way, the nominalization is used as a coherent device to avoid repetition and to summarize information.

3.4. Classification

Grammarians have provided English nominalization with a meticulous classification. Lee (1963, pp.59-85) divides the nominalization into six types: factive nominal, action nominal, agentive nominal, gerundive nominal, infinitive nominal and abstraction nominal. Lees’ categorization deals with the syntactical shift in the nominalization, thus first taking the factive nominal into consideration by proposing that the factive nominal includes “*That-clause*” and “*Question-Word clause*”, as is shown by “*That he came is a surprise*” and “*What he did was obvious*”. Quirk, Greenbaum, & Leech (1985, p.1277) suggest that a nominalization refers to “a noun phrase with a systemic correspondence of a clause structure”, and they further reveal that “the noun head of such a phrase is morphologically related to a verb or an adjective, i.e. the deverbal or deadjectival noun”. We propose the following classification at lexicogrammatical and logical levels as is shown by Table 1, based on the tenets of cognitive-functional approach, which could be a facilitation in the discussion of English-Chinese contrast and translation.

Table1. *The Classification of Nominalization*

	Classification	Examples
Lexico-grammatical Level	Deverbal nominalization	...the degree of <i>givenness</i> of everyday types of discourse
	Deadjectival nominalization	It emphasizes the <i>multiplicity</i> of intersections and hence the greater <i>complexity</i> of <i>structuredness</i> involved.
	Declausal nominalization	...this method has been <i>Bourdieu's contribution to the understanding of the nature and mechanism of the exchange of these goods</i> .
Logical level	The fact that-clause/what-clause	<i>What relational thinking may have added</i> is a versatile and economic analysis of chess,... ... <i>the fact that English and French dominated many cultures under their political influence</i> is simply due to this influence.

3.5. E-C Contrastive Study

The fact that nominalization is a pervasive phenomenon can be evidenced, in a degree, by many researchers, in China, they include but not limited to Hu and Fan (1994), He & Wang (2007) and Zhang (2008). Hu and Fan (1994) has conducted an exhaustive study on the nominalization of

Chinese verbs and adjectives. They revealed that the typical symbol for nominalization is *de* (的), the equivalence of English preposition *of*, which can be divided into two types: attachment and insertion, as is shown by

Ex. 9 住的是西式的房子 → *live in a Western-style house*

Where the auxiliary word *de* is added to the verb (住) to achieve nominalization and to represent its place of residence semantically. The latter can be divided into two forms:

1) Subject + *de* + predicate, as is shown:

Ex.10 她离开了 → 她的离开

Ex. 11 我笑了 → 我的笑 (让人捉摸不透) ;

2) Verb + *de* + object, for instance:

Ex. 12 出售这本书 → 这本书的出售

Ex. 13 发展理论 → 理论的发展

According to the empirical research by Koptjevskaja-Tamm (1993), there exist differences in nominalization in different language communities the world over, The universal linguistic features in various languages have laid a theoretical foundation on the comparative study on nominalization realized in different languages. It is universally acknowledged that native English speakers more often than not prefer to employ nouns or noun phrases to express their ideas, while Chinese prefer verbs and verbalized dictions in a more dynamic and flexible way. Lu (2008) suggests that the syntactic relation of English sentence is mostly represented by “connective-prominence nexus”, English sentences, specifically, are often connected by such relational words as adverbs and prepositions. Lian (1998) argues that English is usually expressed in a “compact style”, since there is only one predicate in an English sentence, with the rest of the components expressed by static “relational words”, which provides a grammatical basis for the emergence of nominalization. English tends to employ non-personal expressions, that is, employing inanimate nouns as the subject, which provides a syntactic basis for the rich employment of nominalization. English is a condensed language in that it tends to use lower grammatical rank to express the complex semantic content (Wang, 1992). English tends to be objective-oriented in its thinking patterns, the neglect of the subjective expressions results in the kind of the rational thinking tendency (Fu & Xu, 2006). In terms of the linguistic differences in English and Chinese briefly discussed, there is much more nominalization in English academic texts than that in Chinese, which is one of the challenges to render English nominalization into Chinese. Thus, proper E-C translation methods need to be proposed, which will be discussed in detail in the next section.

3.6. E-C Nominalization Translation

It is found that there are few studies on the translation of English nominalization into Chinese so far, most of the studies have focused on the syntactical transformation in the two languages respectively, with only limited research on the translation of such English text types as scientific papers and legal documents, of which Li and Yan (2002) studied translation in scientific English text and proposed three E-C translation methods, the discussions on E-C translation of nominalization, however, are far from sufficient. Based on the classifications of the English nominalization discussed above, the E-C translating methods proposed here cover three levels, which are the semantic, lexicogrammatical and logical, so as to provide a more detailed and thorough-going discussion.

The shift at the semantic level features the formulation of English nominalization. Specifically, when a verb or an adjective is transformed into a deverbal or a deadjectival nominalization, the semantic meaning is shifted into a static, abstract and impersonalized domain. Considering the linguistic features of English and Chinese, the translator is advised to employ the translating methods of addition, transposition and literal translation.

3.6.1. Addition of Category Words

Adjectives and verbs will be reworded to be abstract nouns when the semantic shift occurs in which the property and process are shifted into things and ideas. However, the heavy density of abstract

nouns in Chinese often leads to awkward and clumsy expressions, thus failing to be understood by Chinese target readers, Cong (2007) reveals that nominalization embodies the improvement of cognition and often realizes a specific function, with the pragmatic interaction between language experience and social communication producing a communicative function. Most nominalizations with morphological changes indicate, moreover, that many suffixes boast their own unique semantic contents. Some nominalizations with derivational suffixes, thus, naturally incorporate the content, nature and functions of those suffixes, which are different from their verbal or adjectival equivalents. Therefore, in translating the informative text, the employment of the addition of category words to reify the general idea expressed in the ST to indicate the categorization to which concepts such as nature and attributes belong, and we believe that the category words are the suffix of abstract nouns borrowed from foreign languages, such as “性”, “主义”, “度” etc, as is shown by

Ex.14 Establishedness, and highly visible presence in a world network, which create a high degree of interconnectedness, are among the factors of prestige.

恒久性、在世界文化中具有明显的存在感，因此和其他文化形成一定程度的相互联系度，是文化具有声望的因素。

The underlined “*Establishedness*”, “*presence*” and “*interconnectedness*” which are “bounded”, are morphologically derived from “*established*”, “*present*” and “*interconnected*”. Such category words as “性”, “感” and “度” are added in Chinese to acquire equivalence.

3.6.2. Transposition

Transposition, which involves one of the procedures of “replacing one word class with another without changing the meaning of the message,” as is shown by

Ex.15 Advocating the inclusion into or the exclusion of certain occurrences from the “system” is not an issue of the systemic analysis of an assumed set of observables, ...

无论主张把某些事件包括在“系统”之中，还是排斥于“系统”之外，这都不是对所假设的一套可观察的现象的系统分析的问题，...

Verbs “*include*” and “*exclude*” indicate a process, forming a predicate-object structure with “*certain occurrences*”, while the deverbal noun “*inclusion*” or “*exclusion*” indicates a concept, which forms a noun phrase with its logical object “*occurrences*” as the logical object of “*advocating*”.

3.6.3. Literal Translation

Newmark (1988, p.40) defined literal translation to be “the SL grammatical constructions to be converted to their nearest TL equivalents”. Being universal, nominalization can be realized in Chinese without any morphological shifts. Such structure of English nominalization as “the head noun+ of + post-modifiers” can, thus, be rendered equivalently into “名词+的+名词” or “形容词+名词”.

Ex.16 Jakobson’s major contribution to functionalistic system analysis has been his insistence that ...雅各布森对功能主义系统研究的主要贡献在于他一直认为，...

“*Contribution*” is a morphologically derived nominalization from the verb “*contribute*”, which indicates a process of action, while the nominalization conceptualizes this action as a thing, which profiles different aspects at the semantic level.

Nominal phrases often possess subject-predicate and predicate-object logical relations. Making them explicit in translation is helpful to show the logical relationship and to faithfully convey the meaning of the ST, the genitive, the possessive and the *of*-combination, may display a double function with nominalization. Subject-predicate, predicate-object and subject-predicate-object structures, therefore, can be employed to demonstrate the logical relations and to achieve those functions at the lexicogrammatical level, as is shown by

Ex.17 A considerable impetus to this method has been Bourdieu’s contribution to the understanding of the nature and mechanism of the exchange of these goods.

布迪厄对文化商品的交换本质和交换机制的理解做出了贡献，这极大地推动了这一方法。

The possessive case “*Bourdieu's contribution to*” is actually a logical relation of subject-predicate, translating the possessive case into a subject-predicate “布迪厄...做出了贡献” makes the logical relationship explicit.

Ex.18 The very integration of goods of whatever nature in a target system clearly makes them an occurrence of interference even though not locally produced.

任何性质的物品，即使并非本地生产，只要融入了目标文化体系，就会产生干扰。

“Noun + preposition + object” could effect a “predicate-object” logical relation. The predicate-object structures are employed in the translation to conform to the verb-oriented characteristics in Chinese.

The subject of an English clause is often implicit in the noun phrase with prepositions to avoid repetition and redundancy, and nominalization is employed to be objective for the shift of the point of view, translating into a subject-predicate-object structure is more appropriate in Chinese, as is shown by

Ex.19. and there is large agreement about the Middle Eastern origin of some major features of Greek mythology...., 而且大多数人认为希腊神话的一些主要特征来源于中东。

Chinese tends to be subjective, it is accepted in Chinese that when describing an event, the subject of a clause is necessarily to be explicit. Therefore, the subject “人” is supplemented to clearly demonstrate the subject-predicate-object structure in the TT, which is natural and easier for the target readership.

Translation is not only a transformation of meanings and messages, but also the conversion of ways of thinking. Thus, the logico-semantic relations of ST should be explicitly understood by the target readership. Lees (1963) attributes the factive nominal to be “the fact that-clause” and “what-clause” in that those nominal clauses function as subject, appositive or object, which are parallel syntactically to noun phrases. The translation of factive nominals, at the logical level, falls typically into such procedures as omission, literal translation and division.

3.6.4. Omission

When used in the appositive clause, such abstract nouns as *fact*, *case* and *position* tend to show a semantic vacancy, while the idea, like a “shell”, is conceptualized in the subordinate clause. Shell nouns, as a coherent linguistic device, “make up an open-ended, functionally-defined class of abstract nouns that have, to varying degrees, the potential for being used as conceptual “shells” for complex, proposition-like pieces of information” (Schimid, 2000, pp.23-25). The shell words, like “*the fact that*”, could be omitted.

Ex.20 ...the fact that English and French dominated many cultures under their political influence is simply due to this influence.

...在其政治力量的作用下，英语和法语支配着许多文化，纯粹是由于这一影响。

We detected that *the fact that-clause* and *wh-clause* are nominalizations which are supplemented by their appositives. Appositives are much less common in Chinese, omission is exercised to make the translation concise, logical, and natural.

That-clauses performing as noun phrases consists of *subject-*, *object-*, *predicative-* and *appositive* clauses, and *Wh*-clauses could be nominal components introduced by *what*, *who*, *which*, *when*, *where* and *whether*, etc. These nominalizations possess roughly the same sequences and functions with those of Chinese, so literal translation could be applied in their E-C translation.

Ex.21 At any rate, if we are willing to accept for Chinese what we have been willing to accept for Sumerian, interference with a large number of Asian cultures has been the rule here, too.

就算我们愿意接受中国文化和苏美尔文化一样，是独立发展的，冲突也是许多亚洲文化的规律。

The underlined is a “*what-clause*”, functioning as the object of the verb “*accept*”, literal translation is exercised, since both sentences are of the roughly identical order.

3.6.5. Division

In English academic, technological and legal texts, the occurrence of nominal clauses is a privilege, since they are structurally long and semantically condensed, making the text more formal and complicated. However, it is often challenging to render such nominalizations accurately and meaningfully into Chinese, especially when the nominal clauses are under the structure patterns like “*it is... that...*”. In fact, this is precisely the specific structure which requires “unpacking” by making explicit what is structurally implicit in the source text and by expressing the message in the clause to be more logical in the target language. Thus, division is an appropriate procedure to divide the source expression into two or more parts, and the sequence might also be adjusted to obtain the logical and natural expression in Chinese.

Ex.22 It is not a wonder that all theories of “literature” were replaced very quickly by theories which aspired at explaining the conditions which enable social life in general, of which textual production is only one restricted facet, and factor.

所有的“文学”理论都很快被取而代之，新的理论致力于解释实现总体意义上的社会生活的制约因素，在这些制约因素中，文本的生成只是其中一个受到制约的方面和因素，这并不奇怪。

Division is a technique, which aims to analyze the grammatical elements in the ST, and to divide and rearrange those elements in conformity to Chinese, if necessary.

4. CONCLUSION

With the considerations of functions discussed under the integrated approach of SFL and CL, we have made a comprehensive analysis of nominalization and tried to explain the cognitive mechanisms underlying the process of nominalization, suitable and appropriate translation strategies are illustrated in the target text, based on the similarities and differences between English and Chinese and their own characteristics. Though English nominalization has been explored from linguistic and functional perspectives, and a cognitive-functional approach is preferred in the discussion, what is dealt with in this paper is not exhaustive and established. For example, there is no consensus as to how many types of nominalizations English has, what we have categorized in the paper is based on the functions nominalization serve. There are other categorizations, for instance, the nominalization of verbs can be roughly classified into at least three types, which are the zero-derivational, the derivational with such suffixes as *-ion*, *-ment*, *-al*, *-ance*, the gerundive with *-ing* and the infinitive forms. Anyway, what we have categorized is for the sake of translation proper. Further studies could be carried out with other categorizations in other types of writing and in other perspectives.

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AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHY



FAN Linzhou, Professor at Lanzhou University. He is currently teaching English, translation and culture in English Department, School of Foreign Languages and literatures, Lanzhou University. His research interests are translation theory and practice, metaphor, linguistic and cultural changes and evolution.



TAN Tingting, Assistant in College English Teaching. She is currently teaching English at School of Foreign Languages of Zunyi Medical University. Her research interests are College English Teaching and Translation Studies.



LI Jie, Teaching Assistant. She is to join School of General Studies, Chengdu Jincheng College. Her research interests are English-Chinese Translation.

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