



# Linguistic Features and Translation of English Sports News

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**Abstract:** Sports, as a symbol of social civilization, are an indispensable part of our social and cultural life. Nowadays, with the development of society and the economy, sports news has come to occupy a significant place in our daily lives, attracting widespread attention. English sports news, as a distinct style of journalism, shares characteristics with general news writing but also displays unique linguistic features.

This paper seeks to analyze the linguistic features of English sports news, using vivid examples of vocabulary and sentence structure. It is divided into five sections. The first section introduces the origin and development of English sports news. The second is a literature review, which discusses previous studies on English sports news and its translation. The third and fourth sections focus on the linguistic features and translation techniques of English sports news, illustrated with concrete examples. Finally, the fifth section provides a conclusion, summarizing the linguistic features of English sports news and offering several translation principles, such as faithfulness, expressiveness, and elegance, as well as approaches like literal and free translation.

Keywords: English sports news; linguistic features; translation methods

## 1. Introduction

As sports gain popularity worldwide, more and more news media are focusing on the coverage of sports news. In China, like in many other countries, sports have come to play an increasingly important role in people's daily lives. In recent years, numerous major sporting events have been held in China, leading to a growing integration of Chinese and international sports.

This paper examines the significance of English sports news, its distinctive features, and its translation methods. Sports news has become an increasingly crucial component of the news industry and is now considered one of the three main pillars of mass media, alongside social news and economic news. Sports news reporting serves as an important medium through which people express their social values and personal qualities. The global love of sports has contributed to the rise of professional sports newspapers and programs, intensifying competition within sports journalism. In addition, traditional print media face significant challenges from the rapidly expanding Internet and TV broadcasting sectors. In short, no media outlet can afford to ignore the importance of sports news or the fierce competition within this fast-growing field.

Despite the significant role English sports news plays in our daily lives, certain issues remain in its study. The problems include: (1) English sports news is still an emerging field in China, and while some experts have conducted research in this area, more in-depth study is needed. (2) Although many individuals have offered new insights and perspectives on English sports news, there is a lack of comprehensive summaries of previous research. (3) Some examples and structures found in English sports articles are repetitive, making it difficult for readers to systematically understand the translation techniques involved.

This paper will first introduce the origin and development of English sports news. It will then analyze the linguistic features of English sports news, providing vivid examples of its vocabulary and sentence structures. Additionally, the paper will explore translation strategies from both direct and indirect translation perspectives, offering a detailed explanation of how to approach the translation of English sports news. Finally, based on an analysis of its linguistic features, the paper will examine sports news from the angles of vocabulary, sentence structure, and figures of speech, using examples to help readers better understand this field and improve their comprehension skills.

## 2. Literature Review

English sports news plays a significant role in our daily lives. As a practical and dynamic genre, it has attracted the attention of both linguists and stylists. Sports news, as a key area within discourse analysis, is a complex subject that can be studied from multiple perspectives. It offers a rich field for research, with many existing findings and much work still to be done.

News texts can be classified according to various criteria. For instance, based on subject matter, we have categories such as business news, entertainment news, and science and technology news. When categorized by geographic focus, there are classifications like international news, national news, and local news.



The news is a timely report on the situation that may occur or is occurring or will occur<sup>[1]</sup>. According to Van Dijk<sup>[2]</sup>, news discourse is the text or discourse of radio, television, or newspaper, which is new information about recent events.

News is divided into two major categories: hard news and soft news. According to Liu Miming<sup>[3]</sup>, news reports are hard news, they emphasize the facts of the event, while the soft news background is about the story of the information or human. In the past, politics, war, economy, and crime events were considered hard news, while art, entertainment, and lifestyle were considered soft news. From a different point of view, the study of news discourse has always been a high priority. There are many Westerners, such as Van Dijk, Baer, Crystal, David, creek, and so on, who have a good study of English news texts.

As a unique language, English Sports News has its features. In 1988, Van Dijk, in his new book, put forward a new interdisciplinary theory as a discourse. Van Dijk<sup>[2]</sup> systematically studied the language structure of news discourse. And only a limited number of studies have been done by a few researchers and scholars. In China, Xu Mingyu<sup>[1]</sup>, and Liu Miqing<sup>[3]</sup>, summed up the three kinds of news writing methods: chronological, news lead, and inverted pyramid when they analyzed the structure of news reports. Xu Mangu<sup>[1]</sup> makes a comparison between news discourses in English and Chinese from the aspects of vocabulary and grammar and discusses the grammatical translation of English sports news.

### 3. Linguistic Features of English Sports News

Sports news, the broad category of news, enjoys the general characteristics of the news reports.

**Timeliness:** more and more people define the news as "vulnerable" because only the latest reports of games attract the reader's eyeball. And the rest of the results, people will often be used or abandoned. For a report on the results of special real sports competitions, sports fans are going to be able to understand the results most quickly, but no one will care about a week ago.

**Nearness:** Readers are more worried about the geography or the spirit. In the news of the results of the competition in the Chinese Football League, compared with foreigners in this field, Chinese football fans are more concerned about these results.

**Interest:** interest is the most basic feature of sports news. One of the more interesting news is that it is more readable. As a result, journalists are always trying to gather news materials that appeal to the general attraction. Sports news is no exception.

In addition to the above common features, sports news and any other news sharing, also has the following characteristics:

**Wide range of target readers:** Sports news is read by sports enthusiasts at all levels, regardless of their differences in age, gender, nationality, profession, or social status.

**Rich material:** sports writers have never been worried about the lack of news content, because such a wide range of sports activities are based on the establishment of a week or even a day in the world.

Apart from the common features of English sports news, it also has the following specific features.

#### (1) Syntactic Features

We know that reporters are expected to exclude their personal feelings or biases when reporting, aiming to present an objective reality. This is because news reports and analyses are grounded in the principle of objectivity. Therefore, it is generally better to use straightforward language rather than overly dramatic adjectives and adverbs. However, compared to other types of news, English sports news has its own distinct characteristics. Since sports events often take place in public settings, the authenticity and objectivity of sports news are rarely in question.

Due to the competitive and exciting nature of sports, these events must be thoroughly covered by the media. These conditions provide a more relaxed context, allowing sports journalists to employ a wider range of language to report on events. Nevertheless, journalists must still be mindful of their language choices. While the use of Chinese academic language in sports news has been accepted, it should be applied judiciously. Excessive modification of the language can not only feel unnatural to readers but also obscure the true nature of the sports events being reported.

For example:

Example 1: Australian swimmers produced a series of dazzling performances in the year 2012, Kevin lifted the man's 100-meter breaststroke world record in Tokyo. Later, Kevin, together with Thorpe won two gold medals in the London Olympics.

The translation: 2012年的澳大利亚泳坛上演了令人眼花缭乱的表演。如果说在东京打破男子100米蛙泳世界记录的凯文可以被称赞为飞鱼的话,那么之后在英国伦敦进行的奥运会上,凯文和索普组成的澳大利亚男子游泳队再为澳大利亚泳坛赢得俩金,这可以说得上澳大利亚的俩位金童了。

The English language is very exciting. And the achievements that were made by Australian swimmers were as splendid as the language. Meanwhile, the translation of the Chinese version uses more color to attract readers, which represents a fast dynamic word was used. This does not have a big impact on the news itself. Moreover, this creative Chinese version can give readers a stronger desire and more interest to read on by connecting with the latest fashion in other fields. “飞鱼” recalls readers to a powerful and fast image of fish, Kevin is just one such type. Another phrase “金童” tells the readers how Australian athletes can achieve such success which has The two athletes who won the medals in 2012 are still young, they can be called “金童” in Chinese, however, they have had the abilities and strength to get this title.

#### (2) Simple Sentences

Simple sentences can be a simple explanation of what happened before. A news reporter always reports an event in a fairly short period to give the reader a sense of pleasure. In addition, sports journalists like to use the active voice of the sentence to report the news, making the news more efficient and targeted. The basic sentence patterns of news reports can

be categorized into (S+V); (S+V+P); and (S+V+O).

Example 2: Golden State Warrior lost. (S+V+P)

Example 3: China wins two. (S+V+O)

### (3) Extended Simple Sentences

Journalists often extend simple sentences and use appositive, adverbial, and attributive to only use one word to do a conclusion<sup>[5]</sup>. Usually, the news reporters will be applied to the preposition phrase and word phrase for the rear attributive and adverbial to supplement the news.

Example 4: Kevin Durant scored 26 points, 12 assists, and 8 rebounds last night, leading the Thunders to a 126-94 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

In this news, the author uses the word segmentation phrase to modify the simple sentence and reports the results of the match.

### (4) Vivid and Humorous Language

In sports news, reporters frequently use lively and vivid language to make a sense of humor.

Example 5: 13 pills of pain-killer tablet cannot stop Dortmund's pain.

The translation: 13粒止痛片也不能减轻多特蒙德的痛苦。

This is a very typical example. If you see such a sentence in the news, most readers will feel at a loss. And this news in the end wants to express what meaning? What is the relationship between the pain and the Dortmund players? Did they get hurt? With such a problem, readers read the news to find out what happened. Then they will know that a game in the week Bayern Munich has a 4:0 victory over Dortmund. From this example, we know that humor and vivid language can stimulate people's interest in reading interest.

### (5) Colloquial Style of Writing

Since 1950, more and more colloquial usages and slang have appeared in the sports report, which made it closer to the conversational style. Colloquial style is characterized by concise, comprehensive, vivid, expressive, and rendering power. It inspires a huge potential of rhetoric. It is such an unlimited rich spoken language resource that makes sports reports reach the effect they want to achieve. Here is an example:

Example 6: Look at the wicked birdie he swings

The translation: 他挥出的一杆小鸟球简直绝了。

The word "wicked" is a slang, that subjects to evil by nature and is highly offensive, while in this sentence it is used as a commendatory term expressing extremely and incredibly wonderful. We all know that slang and common saying are both particular and unique language forms that need readers' cultural background. Therefore, they certainly will set obstacles for Chinese readers when they read English sports news.

### (6) Active Voice

The use of active voice in English sports news can lead to the reader's attention at first sight. What's more, in English sports news headlines, the active voice expresses ongoing events, and the past is used to record the words that have happened.

Example 7: Team China won the basketball champion

The translation: 中国篮球队赢得了冠军。

Example 8: Basketball in China becoming popular

The translation: 篮球运动在中国越来越受到欢迎。

### (7) Exaggeration

The main task of the new sports is to give readers a vivid impression, therefore, some unique forms of expression in the sports news reports appear. Among these unique forms, exaggeration is one. Let us look at this example:

Example 9: Disaster struck Blue Fox. (Leicester City)

The translation: 蓝狐（莱斯特城）遭遇毁灭性打。

Don't think the Leicester City club is in bankruptcy. Leicester City just lost a game. Of course, the author's purpose is not to cause panic but to arouse the reader's attention.

### (8) Initials

The abbreviation, another name is an acronym, is made up of the first letter of each word in the phrase. In this way, several capital letters are linked together, thus saving space and convenient arrangement of pages. The American Basketball Association (NBA) and other organizations and institutions (FIFA) are the most common abbreviations, which are the most frequently used terms in basketball and football matches, such as:

Example 10: Basketball superstar Allen Iverson yearned for a pay rise on the same day he collected his first MVP. (The Most Valuable Player)

The translation: 阿伦艾佛森在获得首次常规赛“最有价值球员”后提出加薪。

In the sentence, "MVP" stands for the Most Valuable Player in the league.

In sports news writing, some common nouns and adjectives are often shortened by cutting their heads or taking off their tail letters to lessen the words. Rockets vs. Warriors (versus) and gym (gymnasium) are the two typical instances.

### (9) Names or Nicknames

The names of sports organizations and teams are usually long. Therefore, with nicknames of concise and vivid language, sportswriters feel like naming the main athlete to represent the team he or she is in. Here is an example:

Example 11: Kevin Durant downs the Warriors.

In this sentence, Durant, NBA's most famous basketball player, when the reader to see this news, they will understand that

the team of Thunder won the victory. Here, the news reporters use Durant to highlight his role in the team, he led the Thunder made a victory. At the same time, this kind of news report style is more intimate, causing the reader to be easy to accept.

Example 12: King James breaks the Nets.

Here King James is the nickname of LeBron James, a famous basketball player in the NBA. It is King James who leads the Heat-conquered Nets. The reporter uses this nickname to attract more reader's eyeballs, and this kind of writing style is becoming more and more popular in English sports news writing.

(10) Coined Words

In linguistics, the new words are more and more popular, because it makes the language more lively and vivid. In English sports news writing, writers tend to use more words, especially the military, and even some of the vocabulary to express news itself, which has stimulated fresh, such as *Winning Eleven* (Winning Eleven) was originally a movie about the battlefield and what happened, and it is by British sports newspaper quoted an article Title with a smell of gunpowder between champion football teams race in two. What is more, this sentence is also quoted by the computer game company, as the name of the game to improve the popularity. This feature is more prominent in sports newspapers in China.

(11) Omission

Many readers read the sports news just want to know what happened at home and abroad that is why they just browse titles. When they saw the news, more specifically, they read only concise and compelling titles. Reporters often cut some words, without cutting their basic meaning, to achieve the goal of attracting eyeballs.

Example 13: Team France (is) in Action.

The translation: 法国队整装待发。

The meaning of this sentence is still clear after omitting the auxiliary verbs. Sometimes, auxiliary verbs are instead by punctuations.

(12) Numbers

The results of the games are always related to digital and these numbers also play an important role in sports coverage. The biggest concern of numbers is to be brief and precise, stating the match time, statistics, and match results.

#### **4. The Translation of English Sports News**

##### **4.1 The Problems in the Translation of English Sports News**

(1) Lack of Professional and Background Knowledge

If the sports news reporter lacks professional background knowledge, he will make mistakes or send the wrong message to the reader<sup>[6]</sup>. Here is an example:

Example 14: Ronaldo is very good in the air.

Mistranslation: 罗纳尔多在空中表现不错。

The correct translation: 罗纳尔多的头球技术精湛。

In the sentence, the phrase "in the air" is a football term that means "用头顶球". If the phrase is translated into "空中", the sentence would send a wrong message to the reader.

(2) Lack of Correct Understanding of the Words

The same word in different contexts conveys different meanings. The word "Play" is an example. "Play" in different contexts has different meanings. In sports games, it can mean kicking the ball.

Example 15: She plays the ball and runs forwards.

Here "play" means "带球" and does not convey the meaning it used to be.

From the above we can conclude that only the translator is proficient in the conversion of the two languages and has professional background knowledge as much as possible does he could convey an accurate, clear, and vivid sporting event to the reader.

##### **4.2 Translation Principles**

Translation plays a significant role in cultural communication, which is to construct a bridge between different cultures and different languages. The essence of translation is the translation of a source language into the target language, which is equivalent to the part of the translation<sup>[7]</sup>. Because of the remarkable characteristics of English sports news, these translation principles can better reflect the characteristics of English sports news.

Yan Fu<sup>[8]</sup>, the famous Chinese translator and scholar, put forward the famous translation principle of "Faithfulness, expressiveness and elegance.

**Faithfulness:** He holds that a translation version should grasp all the important information in the text. Among them, it is particularly important to grasp the original meaning of the original text.

**Expressiveness:** Yan<sup>[8]</sup> thinks that expressiveness is extremely important in the translation. Therefore, the translator must have a good understanding of a particular field to translate the original text from the macro level.

**Elegance:** He argued that a translation version must be perfect enough to attract readers.

For many years, Yan Fu's theory has been the most influential one in this field. Under the guidance of these principles, generation after generation translators have translated more and more excellent articles.

##### **4.3 Translation Methods**

To reach the translation principles of Faithfulness, Expressiveness, and Elegance, we should make use of the following methods in English sports news translation.

(1) Literal Translation

Literal translation is a way to keep the original content or to maintain the original form of translation or translation. It is to clarify the meaning of the original text, without any distortion or to add or delete the original idea, but also to maintain the original style. In literal translation, faithful to the original content should be put in the first place, followed by the faithful in the form of the original, the second is the fluency and popularity of the translation of language. Here is an example:

Example 16: Buffon, almost deceived, dived to his left to just get a glove palm to the ball and guide it to the post.

The translation: 意大利门将, 布冯差点判断失误, 扑向球门左边, 皮球从其手掌擦过后改变方向, 击中门柱。

#### (2) Free Translation

Free translation is a method used to accurately convey the meaning of the source language without adhering strictly to the original form, while literal translation involves directly translating the source text word for word. Both approaches are widely used to achieve translation accuracy and smoothness. English and Chinese, for example, differ significantly in sentence structure, word usage, and other linguistic aspects. Therefore, the choice of translation method should depend on the specific context, and sometimes both methods are employed simultaneously.

Free translation aims to preserve the overall meaning as much as possible without focusing too rigidly on the details. In the process of free translation, certain sentences or words may not need to be translated literally. However, free translation does not mean a complete reworking of the original text. The translator must fully comprehend the source material to accurately convey its intended meaning. Free translation requires a deep understanding of the specific field involved, as well as a strong linguistic foundation.

Here is an example:

Example 17: Kobe Bryant is second to none as a professional basketball player.

The translation: 科比布莱恩特是世界上最好的篮球运动员。

Here the meaning of “second to none” is the best one.

#### (3) Addition and Ellipsis of Words

The addition of words refers to an order to fulfill some different needs, to achieve the faithful original, and to restore the original purpose, some words to be added in the sentence structure, meaning, rhetoric, and other aspects. However, the words cannot be casually added, resulting in the meaning of the article is not clear.

Ellipsis, on the contrary, is a kind of translation method. It omitted some of the original article. When these words are translated into other target languages, these possibly would be considered redundant, resulting in the redundancy of readers understanding the original impact. Thus, the translator will choose to omit some of them to reflect its meaning.

Example 18: The problem, he said, was the pressure of meeting the expectations of the Chinese public, which will be satisfied only with gold medals.

The translation: 他(刘国梁)认为, 中国队很大一部分压力来自于老百姓的深厚期待。只有(中国队)赢得金牌, 他们的期待才得到满足。

In this sentence, adding some nouns will help readers to better understand the meaning of the original text.

#### (4) Changes of Syntactic Structures

In the English translation of sports news, it is necessary to adjust the structure of the sentence. The sentence structure is divided into two main types of sentence structure and sentence structure. Separation of sentence: the original context of a complex sentence into several shorter sentences, while the latter is a few simple sentence integrations for a long sentence.

Example 19: Ning Zeta always kept his best for the Olympics. He never won gold at world championships, taking many gold medals in domestic matches.

The translation: 宁泽涛总是在奥运会展现最佳状态, 因为他只在在历届国内大赛获得过金牌。

This translation uses a combination of sentences. The translator combined two different sentences using the conjunction. The two sentences will be integrated into a sentence, smoothly expressing the meaning of the original text.

From what we discussed above, we can see a wide range of translation methods can be applied in sports news translation to solve different problems and meet different needs. Translators should always consider carefully the specific situations and decide which one to use.

### 5. Conclusion

Sports have become an indispensable part of our daily lives, and well-structured English sports news reporting plays a crucial role in conveying information and fostering connections between people worldwide. This also places a responsibility on sports reporters to develop a deeper understanding of the unique features of sports reporting and the appropriate translation methods, enabling them to deliver concise and accurate information that effectively serves a broad audience.

This paper aims to provide a comprehensive introduction to the linguistic characteristics of English sports news, while also examining the existing challenges in sports news translation. Furthermore, the author proposes specific translation skills and methods for sports writing translators.

The paper concludes that English sports news is a distinct form of journalistic writing, significantly different from other writing styles. As such, it is essential to pay special attention to the unique features of sports news when translating it from one language to another. Additionally, it is vital for a translator to possess not only extensive professional knowledge but also a deep understanding of the context and background of the sports report in question. This allows the translator to apply the most suitable translation methods and produce an accurate and culturally appropriate Chinese version.

Drawing on well-known translation theories and real-world examples from newspapers and magazines, this paper hopes

to contribute to the improvement of both the quality and efficiency of English sports writing translation.

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