

Research on Translation Teaching Based on Corpus

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Abstract: Translation teaching has undergone significant changes in recent years with the development of technology and the information age. The increasing focus on the use of corpus in translation teaching has led to its becoming an important tool for improving translation education. Corpus refers to a representative text collection of a certain scale, which provides materials and technical support for translation practice and theoretical interpretation. This paper discusses the basic theories of corpus-based translation and its significance in translation teaching. The methods of corpus application in translation teaching, common problems that may occur, and effective countermeasures are also presented. The research reveals that corpus-based translation can significantly improve translation accuracy, foster translation skills, and promote translation theory development. The study also identifies several methods of corpus application in translation teaching, such as source and target language alignment, co-occurrence analysis, and concordance analysis. Furthermore, it shows that challenges may arise when working with corpus-based translation, such as the construction of a representative corpus and the potential limitations of corpus analysis. In conclusion, corpus-based translation is paramount in contemporary translation teaching due to its numerous benefits. The research, therefore, aims to assist teachers in understanding the effective use of corpus-based translation in translation teaching while also aiding students in the acquisition of practical and theoretical translation skills.

1. Theoretical Basis of Corpus-Based Translation

Corpus-based translation teaching has emerged as an important approach in contemporary translation pedagogy due to its potential to effectively enhance translation skills and advance translation theory. In this approach, corpus technology plays a critical role in generating a wide range of translation corpora, which can then facilitate the analysis and processing of varied types of texts in both professional and non-professional translation contexts.

As the field of linguistics and computer technology has continued to evolve, translation research has increasingly centered on corpus-based translation research. This research methodology emphasizes the use of corpus analysis to uncover patterns, tendencies, and features of source and target texts, which can inform translation teaching strategies and promote the development of translation theory.

In essence, corpus-based translation teaching offers substantial benefits over traditional approaches to teaching and learning translation [1]. For instance, it facilitates the identification and analysis of various translation phenomena in a more comprehensive and systematic manner, which can promote greater translation accuracy and fluency. Additionally, the use of corpus-based translation teaching also helps students to develop critical translation competencies, such as translation research and problem-solving skills.

Overall, the theoretical basis of corpus-based translation teaching underscores the importance of using corpus technology to facilitate translation research and teaching practices. As translation continues to play a critical role in global communication, the importance of this approach will likely continue to gain broader recognition in the field of translation studies.

2. The Application of Corpus in Translation Teaching

We Corpus-based translation teaching has revolutionized the traditional methods of translation pedagogy, as it enables students to learn and practice translation in a more holistic and comprehensive manner. One of its main advantages is that it provides a natural and authentic language environment, which is essential for learners to gain a deeper understanding of real-world language usage.[2] By using authentic texts from the corpus, students are exposed to the language in context, which helps them grasp the nuances of meaning and the connotations of words and phrases.

Another benefit of corpus-based translation teaching is that it allows students to better understand the usage, characteristics, and style of language. By analyzing large amounts of data from the corpus, students can develop their language sensitivity and acquire a more intuitive sense of how language works in different contexts.[3] In addition, students can learn to recognize typical sentence structures, idiomatic expressions, and collocations, which are vital for achieving natural, idiomatic translations.

Corpus-based translation teaching can also be used to establish a certain language knowledge system that helps students understand the translation process. For example, students can learn about the lexical, grammatical, and stylistic features of different genres of texts, such as scientific articles, legal documents, or literary works. They can also learn about the different stages of the translation process, including analysis, comprehension, transfer, and revision, and apply these skills to their own translation practice.

Furthermore, corpus-based translation teaching can promote communication and discussion between teachers and students, creating a lively and dynamic learning environment. Teachers can provide feedback on student translations using examples from the corpus, and students can discuss different approaches and strategies for tackling translation problems. This stimulates students' learning interest and exploration spirit, as they are encouraged to work collaboratively and critically assess their own work.

Table 1 Application of Corpora

Data Details	Data Category	Data Item
Translation Teaching	Course Management	Teaching materials, Student information, Teaching progress, Grade management, Translation exercises and assignments, Feedback and evaluation, etc.
	Language Practice	Translation examples, Corpora, Multilingual resources, Translation skill development, Interpreting skill development, Writing skill development, etc.
Translation Management	Project Management	Translation projects, Task assignment, Terminology management, Translation workflow management, Collaboration and communication, Quality control, Project performance analysis, etc.
	Technical Support	Computer-assisted translation tools, Natural language processing tools, Translation memory tools, Machine translation tools, Cloud-based translation tools, etc.
Translation Industry Research	Research Data	New translation fields, Emerging markets, Translation trends, Industry best practices, etc.
	Industry Reports	Translation market demand, Industry trends, Industry development prospects, etc.

Moreover, the application of corpora in translation teaching could be applied in various aspects,

as demonstrated in Table 1. This could include the management of translation courses, such as teaching materials, student information, teaching progress, grade management, translation exercises and assignments, feedback and evaluation, and language practice, such as translation examples, corpora, multilingual resources, translation skill development, interpreting skill development and writing skill development. Additionally, for translation management, this could involve project management, such as translation projects, task assignment, terminology management, translation workflow management, collaboration and communication, quality control, and project performance analysis. The technical support for translation management could also include computer-assisted translation tools, natural language processing tools, translation memory tools, machine translation tools, cloud-based translation tools, etc. Lastly, for those conducting research in the translation industry, they could analyse research data on new translation fields, emerging markets, translation trends, industry best practices, etc., and investigate industry reports on translation market demand, industry trends, industry development prospects, and other relevant aspects.

By using these databases, translation teaching and management can be effectively supported, and the translation abilities and qualities of students and professionals can be improved, which can promote the development and enhancement of the translation industry.[4] At the same time, these databases also provide important data support for the research and application of translation tools and technologies, helping to promote the advancement and optimization of translation technology to better meet the needs and requirements of practical applications.

In conclusion, corpus-based translation teaching offers a multitude of benefits for learners, providing them with a rich and varied source of authentic language input, enabling them to develop their language sensitivity and accuracy, and fostering a collaborative and reflective learning community.[5] By using the corpus as a central teaching tool, students can gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the complexities of translation and enhance their professional competencies as translators.

3. Application Methods of Corpus in Translation Teaching

The application of corpus technology in translation teaching can mainly be divided into two aspects: one is the use of corpus to generate translation inputs to improve translation quality and speed before translation; the other is the guidance and assistance during translation, making translation results predictable and comparable by referring to the corpus.[6] In the teaching process, the application methods of corpus vary depending on different teaching objectives, including the following:

3.1. Mastery of Language Characteristics and Imitation of Language Styles by Students Through Statistical Functions of Corpora

The specific process is as follows: first, it is necessary to determine the language type and corresponding corpus to be studied, and then use the corpus statistical tool to extract and analyse the data. Analyse and classify the corpus data, extract and count the language characteristics of specific texts, such as word usage frequency, sentence and phrase combinations, collocations, and grammatical structures. By analysing these language characteristics, students can understand the language rules and expression habits of the target languages more deeply. By imitating and practicing the language characteristics of the target language, students can gradually master the language patterns and styles of the target language, express its meaning more naturally, and improve the accuracy of translation.[7] For instance, based on the language level and translation needs of students studying a certain language, the teacher can select an appropriate corpus and extract high-frequency words, common phrases, and typical sentence structures to help students improve their language expression abilities through imitation and practice, while expanding their vocabulary and language materials, and better utilizing the statistical functions of corpora to help students master language characteristics and imitate language styles.

3.2. Utilization of Corpus Classification Function to Categorize Language Contexts and Assist Students in Achieving a Deeper Comprehension of Translation Content

The classification function of the corpus can be applied to divide language scenes and help students understand the translation content more deeply. The specific process is as follows: first, it is necessary to determine the language type and corresponding corpus to be studied, select some typical language texts according to translation needs and scenes, and then classify the corpus texts into different language scenes, such as business translation, technology translation, legal translation, etc., or classify them based on themes, such as tourism, sports, culture, etc. By analyzing the text data of different language scenes, language characteristics and expression methods under each scene can be counted and sorted out. Based on the language characteristics and expression methods of different language scenes, corresponding teaching plans and course contents can be formulated to guide students to learn and master the language characteristics and expression methods of target languages thoroughly.[8] Teachers can also develop related exercises and experiments based on certain language characteristics and expression methods that are difficult to comprehend and let students consolidate and deepen their understanding through practical operation. Case studies can be conducted by selecting representative translation cases, allowing students to perform language classification and scene division, master the rules and skills of translation, deepen their understanding of the target language, and develop their translation and practical skills. For example, teachers teaching business English translation can select some texts of business translation scenes, such as business cooperation, market analysis, product introduction, etc. After classifying these texts, the language characteristics and expression methods of each scene can be analyzed separately, and teaching plans and contents can be formulated based on different scenarios and characteristics. Case analysis and practical operation can be conducted to help students understand translation content more deeply, improve translation abilities and quality.

3.3. Assistance of Students in Understanding Language Differences and Similarities Through the Utilization of Corpus Comparison Function

To begin, it is necessary to determine the two types of languages and corresponding corpora. Using the corpus comparison tool, data comparison and analysis can be conducted. By comparing corpora of different language types, differences and similarities between the two languages can be extracted and counted such as differences in word usage, sentence and phrase structures, and grammar. By analyzing these differences and similarities, students can gain deeper insights into the linguistic customs and features of the two languages. Additionally, instead of simply comparing statistical data, students can also compare texts of the two languages based on their own practical experiences and needs.[9] For example, analyzing sentences, expression methods, and interpretation difficulties of a given piece of English and Chinese text of the same length, students can think about how one language can be translated into the other with natural and accurate results. After gaining an understanding of the differences and similarities between the two languages, students can engage in practical exercises such as translation and interpretation training to improve their language expression and translation abilities. For an instructor teaching Chinese-English translation, they can select typical examples of Chinese text, compare them with corresponding English texts and extract typical linguistic features, then create teaching plans and provide exercises to help students gain a better understanding of the differences and similarities between the two languages and simultaneously improve their translation abilities.

4. Existing Problems and Countermeasures

Despite the many advantages of corpus-based translation teaching, there are still several issues that need to be addressed. One of the main problems is the selection and screening of corpora. The quality and stability of a corpus can vary significantly, as it includes texts from different sources, genres, and time periods. Therefore, it's necessary to maintain and update the corpus regularly to improve the data's quality and accuracy. Moreover, the selection of the corpus must reflect the

students' language learning goals and objectives, and the corpus must be relevant to their discipline or field of study. Another issue is the need for appropriate computer software and hardware to access, retrieve, and analyze the corpus effectively.[10] While there are numerous corpus tools available, they differ in their quality and usability, and some require specific knowledge to operate. While corpus-based translation teaching offers several benefits, appropriate corpus selection, maintenance, and software tools are necessary to ensure its effectiveness.

In addition, due to the significant differences in students' translation skills, it can be difficult to assess and provide feedback based on a uniform standard. To address this challenge, a teaching evaluation system should be established that takes into account each student's abilities and weaknesses and provides guidance to improve their translation skills. This can be achieved through classroom case analysis, student feedback, and other methods that can serve as valuable references for teachers to improve their teaching methods. Furthermore, the teaching evaluation system should also consider the diversity of students' backgrounds and practical application scenarios. For students who frequently use a particular language for communication, oral and listening skills are also important, but these skills are often difficult to develop in purely translation-based teaching. Therefore, translation teaching can be combined with teaching other language skills to improve students' overall language abilities.[11] Moreover, in terms of the effectiveness evaluation, multiple forms such as exams, assignments, oral performance, etc. can be used to comprehensively reflect students' translation abilities. At the same time, teachers should adjust their teaching methods based on students' feedback and performance, to promote better understanding and mastery of translation skills.

Another important consideration for translation teaching is the selection and adaptation of teaching materials. While corpora can be an invaluable resource for training students in translation, not all translation content is suitable for use in a corpus-based approach. For example, certain types of texts may be too complex to effectively train students in translation using a corpus approach, or may require a different level of language proficiency than what is typical for language learners. Additionally, certain languages may be more difficult to translate using corpus-based methods due to their syntax, grammar, or semantic structures. To address these challenges, teachers must carefully select and adapt different translation cases based on their complexity, original language, and other factors. This may involve conducting additional research into potential translation cases, or adapting existing materials to better fit the needs and abilities of their students. Selecting and adapting appropriate translation cases is crucial for aligning teaching materials with teaching objectives and creating a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. By taking these measures, teachers can better equip their students to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to become proficient translators in their target languages.

In summary, to successfully implement corpus-based translation teaching, it is essential to maintain and update the corpus, establish a teaching evaluation system that takes into account individual student abilities, and carefully select and adapt translation contents. By doing so, the quality of the course implementation can be enhanced, and students can deepen their understanding of the complexities of translation and improve their professional competencies as translators.

5. Conclusion

Corpus-based translation teaching has emerged as an advanced teaching method that has garnered significant attention in the field of translation studies. This teaching method relies on the use of corpora or large, structured sets of texts, to teach translation skills. By analyzing the language used in real-life situations, students gain a deeper understanding of the context and usage of words and phrases, leading to a more accurate and effective translation.

The advantages of corpus-based translation teaching are numerous. First and foremost, this method allows students to gain exposure to authentic language use, which is often difficult to replicate in a classroom setting. Corpus-based teaching also ensures that students are exposed to diverse language forms and registers, thus enabling them to produce translations that are both contextually and culturally appropriate.

To maximize the benefits of corpus-based teaching, it is necessary for both teachers and students to engage in corpus research and organization. Teachers can use this research to create teaching materials that accurately reflect the language used in real-life situations. Meanwhile, students can undertake corpus research to develop their own translation skills and gain a more comprehensive understanding of the language they are studying.

Overall, corpus-based translation teaching is a valuable and effective method for teaching translation skills. By integrating corpus research and organization, teachers and students can develop an enhanced understanding of language use and context, leading to more accurate and effective translation.

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