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## "退耕还林"英译管见

吴伟根1, 方丽青2

(1. 浙江林学院 科技处, 浙江 临安 311300; 2. 浙江林学院 外国语学院, 浙江 临安 311300)

摘要:"退耕还林"的本质是把一度为了生产粮食而毁林开垦的土地,停止耕种,重新造林,恢复森林。目前不少译文把"退耕还林"译为 grain for green (绿化),或 returning famland to forestland (把农地转为林地)等,使人易误认为是荒山造林绿化(荒山→森林)或把现有农业用地转变为林业用地(农地→林地)。文章认为,要把"退耕还林"译得科学规范,必须抓住其本质。通过分析比较,给出了 conversion of famland back to forests, transfer of famland back to forests 和 forest rehabilitation from slope agriculture 等几种参考译法。参 17

关键词:应用语言学;退耕还林;名词术语;翻译;规范化中图分类号:H083;S7-05 文献标识码:A

科技名词术语的准确翻译不仅是个技术问题,更是个学术问题。随着我国对外开放、社会经济发展和科技进步,更应"注重对术语概念的表达和规范"<sup>[1]</sup>。

"退耕还林"是近年见报率很高的词汇之一。《新世纪汉英大词典》把它译为 defarming-and-reafforestation <sup>[2]</sup>。《常用中文新词英译》为 grain for green <sup>[3]</sup>。例如: "China's widely-implemented grain for green project, under which farming onfragile land gives way to afforestation, not only improves the environment but is filling farmers' pockets。" <sup>[4]</sup> 媒体宣传中有译为 returning farmland to forests 的。例如: "First, returning more farmland to forests. Our achievements over the past two years have proved that returning arable land to forests (or pastures and lakes) in the central and western regions is both an important measure for improving the ecological environment and promoting agricultural restructuring and an effective way of directly increasing farmers 'incomes." <sup>[3]</sup> 也有译为 returning grain plots to forestry 的。如:"Encourage farmers to participate in ecological protection through returning grain plots to forestry and afforestation campaigns <sup>[4]</sup>。在科技论文题名和英文摘要中"退耕还林"的译法非常混乱,有几十种之多。诸如 forest rehabilitation,returning land for farming to forest (ry),等<sup>[7-13]</sup>。这些译法绝大部分是照中文词面而译出的。由于理解不同,译词不一。

根据以上这些译词表达的基本意思,作者将它们大致分为3类:

第一类,译词所包含的基本意思是把耕地转换成林地。例如: afforesting on sloping plow land, transferring farmland to forestry, changing slope land from cultivation to forest plantation, change cultivated land to forest, cropland shifting for tree planting, converting the land for forestry, sloping land conversion program, the cropland conversion to forest, replacing plough by forest, change cultivation into tree planting, conversion of cropland to forest, cultivated land changed into forestland, 等。

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作者简介: 吴伟根、编审,从事科技期刊编辑学及相关学科研究。E-mail: wuwg\_zjfc@yahoo.com.cn ?1994-2016 China Academic Journal Electronic Publishing House. All rights reserved. http://www.cnki.net

第二类,译词表达的意思是把耕地还原为林地,也就是说这些耕地原本就是林地,由于某种需要,毁林开垦,用于耕种,现在要停止农耕,重新造林,恢复森林。这类译词有 defarming-and-reafforestation,giving up cultivation and resuming the forest, taking land out of farming use and giving back to forestive use, conversion of cultivated land back to forests, de-farming and reforestation。等。

第三类,译词语义或词法存在问题。比如 returning farmland to forestland(把耕地归还给林地)。这类译法语焉不详,原因至少有二: 一是把东西归还给某人,归还以后东西的属性不会变。如把耕地归还给农民,农民拥有的还是耕地。显然根据这个规则无法解释把耕地归还给林地。二是把 A 归还给B,A 和 B 应该是 2 个客体,但在 returning farmland to forestland 中,farmland 和 forestland 所指是同一客体,即同一块土地。类似的译词还有 return the grain plots to forestry,returning cultivation into afforestation,returning cultivated land in steep hill to forest,returning arable land to forest,returning land for farming to forest (ry),returning farmland to forest,returning farmland to forests,returning grain plots to forestry,等,都有望文生义之嫌。词法本身有问题的有 cultivated slope land returning forest,fields returned to plant trees等。另外grain for green 是"greening 绿化"的同义语,不但无"退耕还林"之意,而且易使人误解是包括荒山造林的大地绿化。

要译好某个名词,必须了解这个词的含意,只有这样才能抓住重心,译出与原意相同或基本接近的译词。因此要译好"退耕还林"这个词,首先应该搞清退耕还林(草)的含意。

随着我国社会经济的发展,我国的粮食安全问题已基本解决,国家财政收入不断增加,综合国力日益增强,国家有足够的经济实力来支持林业的发展,实施"以粮代赈"的"退耕还林"补贴政策,改善生态环境。我国"退耕还林"虽然在新中国成立之前就已在局部地区实施,如 1949 年 4 月晋西北行政公署发布的《保护与发展林木林业暂行条例(草案)》规定"已开垦而又荒芜了的林地应该还林。森林附近已开林地,如易于造林,应停止耕种而造林。林中小块农田应停耕还林。"但作为一项制度,一项决策,是在 1998 年我国遭遇特大洪水灾害之后,1999 年开始试点,2002 年正式启动。2002 年国务院第 66 次常务会议通过了《退耕还林条例》,于 2003 年 1 月 20 日实施。由此,我国的退耕还林实现了由理论探索到生产实践的转变,并逐步走向制度化和规范化。

我国实施的退耕还林(草)工程"就是国家用计划手段,以工程建设的方式,通过政策引导,使沙 化地和退化坡耕地向林(草)地的资源转化,改变不合理的土地利用方式,达到生态-经济系统重建的 目的。"「同 退耕还林既是我国的生态工程项目,也是国家生态建设政策的重要组成部分,其最终目的 就是改善生态环境,实现山川秀美。具体地说,就是将容易造成水土流失的坡耕地和容易造成沙化的 耕地(这些地方在没有农耕前本来就是林地或草地),逐步停止耕作,造林种草,恢复植被。我国的这 一工程相似于美国的 conservation reserve program (CRP)。"CRP provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resources concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides assistances to farmers and ranchers in complying with Federal, State, and tribal environmental laws, and encourages environmental enhancement. CRP reduces soil, protects the Nation's ability to produce food and fiber, reduces sedimentation in streams and lakes, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, and enhances forest and wetland resources. It encourages farmers to convert highly enodible cropland of other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetable cover. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-years. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices. "[17] 可见,CRP 是一个长期由政府资助、农场主自愿参加的容易水土流失耕地的退耕计 划。因此,我国的退耕还林(草)工程和美国的 CRP 实质上都是由政府资助的大型农业生态经济项目, 是针对毁林开垦造成水土流失,灾害频繁发生,给农业生产资源和生态环境带来的破坏,在容易发生 土壤侵蚀的地区,实行有计划的退耕还林还(草)及休耕。

conservation reserve program 译为中文就是"退耕还林",但也译为"保护与储备计划" 中国的退耕还林能否也译为 conservation reserve program ? 笔者认为不能。 因为 conservation reserve program 是美国实施的退耕还林专用词,并非通用词,中国的退耕还林应根据其含意给出一个专用词。笔者认为,

译词不仅要符合英语词法,更要体现退耕还林的本质,即要把原来毁林用来农作的耕地复原为林地,还其自然本来面目的概念译出来,因此,可从第二类译法中推敲遴选。在全国自然科学名词审定委员会未公布正式的规范译法前,有几种译法可供参考: conversion of farmland back to forests,land conversion from farmland back to forests,land transfer from farmland back to forests,transfer of farmland back to forests。把"退耕还林"译为"forest rehabilitation from slope agriculture"也是可取的。

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## On translation of "tuigeng huanlin (conversion of farmland back to forests)"

WU Wei-gen<sup>1</sup>, FANG Li-ging<sup>2</sup>

(1. Academic Affairs Office, Zhejiang Forestry College, Lin'an 311300, Zhejiang, China; 2. School of Foreign Languages, Zhejiang Forestry College, Lin'an 311300, Zhejiang, China)

Abstract: The meaning of "tuigeng huanlin" is to stop the forest-sourced farmland for grain production and converse it back to forests. In many papers, "tuigeng huanlin" is trainslated into grain for green or returning farmland to forestland and so on. People might misunderstand it as planting trees on bare mountains or changing the farmland into forest land. The paper argues that faithful translation of "tuigeng huanlin" is determined by the correct understanding of its meaning. After a comparative analysis, the referential translations such as "conversion of farmland back to forests", "transfer of farmland back to forests" and "forest rehabilitation from slope agriculture" are suggested. [Ch, 17 ref.]