

# The Pedagogy of Corpus-aided English-Chinese Translation from a Critical & Creative Perspective

Qingliang Meng

College of Applied Technology, Jiaxing University, Jiaxing, China;  
School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

**Abstract**—With the advancement of corpus linguistics, there has been an increasing interest in using corpora as a tool for translator training and translation practice. Despite the usefulness of corpora in translation pedagogy, the more and more reliance on parallel corpora in translating activities has diminished the ability to determine the meaning of words within different contexts using dictionaries. However, it has hampered the enhancement of translation competence of trainee translators. This study investigates the necessity of adopting critical and creative thinking in the teaching of corpus-aided English-Chinese translation. It first examines the increasing importance of corpora in aiding translator training and translating practice. A critical analysis was adopted to analyze a translation case using a parallel corpus. Thirteen Chinese versions of *Pride and Prejudice's opening remark* were compared and analyzed critically and creatively with the aid of different corpora. Pedagogical implications for translation teaching were summarized.

**Index Terms**—critical, creativity, translation, pedagogy, corpus, English, Chinese

## I. INTRODUCTION

The combination of corpus linguistics and Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS) has given rise to Corpus-based Translation Studies (CTS). Many different corpora types, such as monolingual, parallel, comparable corpora, have been built and applied in translation studies (Zanettin, 1998). According to Laviosa (2004), Gellerstam's first monolingual comparable corpus of Swedish novels in 1986 and Lindquist's investigation of Swedish renderings of English adverbials with a parallel language database in 1989 marked the beginning of applied corpus translation studies, which was mainly concerned with the practice and training of translators (Laviosa, 2004, p.15). Laviosa also pointed out that corpora in applied CTS are used as sources for the retrieval of translation equivalents to help improve the quality and efficiency of target texts. Moreover, it functions as “repositories of data” for better understanding of the translation process and language behavior (ibid.). Unlike descriptive studies, which mainly use parallel, comparable monolingual corpora as well as single translational corpora for a description of translation process and product, applied CTS rely primarily on comparable bilingual corpora or monolingual target language corpora in experiments or classroom teaching of translation to enhance the acquisition of translation skills and target language competence (Laviosa, 2002, p. 101).

As a new paradigm of translation research, Chinese scholars have already adopted corpus linguistics and applied to their studies. Liu Kanglong & Mu Lei (2006) explored the relationship between corpus linguistics and translation studies. Hu Xianyao (2007) discussed the characteristics of lexical terms in Chinese translated novels based on corpora. Xiong Bing (2015) studied a translation teaching model based on an English-Chinese parallel corpus, and Xu Jiajin(2016) looked at the semantic generalization of translational English based on comparable corpora. However, Malmkjær warned that the bulk of statistical evidence, like corpora's concordances, may lead scholars to neglect or ignore problematic translation (Baker, 1998, p. 53). The novice translators, who have not yet developed proficient linguistic ability and translation competence, might rely too much on corpora to produce the target texts without appropriate guidance from the teachers or trainers. Therefore, it is quite essential and necessary for both teachers and students to assume critical and creative thinking in corpus-aided translation. The masterpieces of translation are mostly the result of the translators' creativity, and “creativity in translation starts where imitation stops” (Newmark, 1991, p. 9).

This paper first reviewed the importance of corpora in translation pedagogy. Then, a comparison was made between dictionaries and corpora in translation, followed by a discussion of creativity as an essential quality of translators. Afterward, a statistical investigation into parallel and monolingual corpora was conducted. The pedagogical implications for translation teaching and practice were summarized in the last section.

## II. IMPORTANCE OF CORPORA IN TRANSLATION TRAINING AND PRACTICE

### A. Application of Corpora to Translation Studies

The development of computer technology has made possible the automatic processing of large-scale information. When such technology is applied to collecting texts representing a given language for linguistic analysis, a new branch

of general linguistics called corpus linguistics came into being. Modern corpus linguistics began in the early 1960s, marked by the creation of Brown Corpus (Laviosa, 2002, p. 3). After nearly thirty years of progress, Sinclair (1992) predicted that there would be “some fascinating years and decades in linguistics” based on the development of computer technology which enables people to retrieve information from text corpora, and he firmly believed that such technology would exert the most profound effect in the study of language (Sinclair, 1992, p. 379). Following Sinclair’s prediction, Baker (1993), based on her in-depth knowledge and rich experience in the field of translation studies, argued that “the techniques and methodology developed in the field of corpus linguistics will have a direct impact on the emerging discipline of translation studies, particularly to its theoretical and descriptive branches” (Baker, 1993, p. 233). At almost the same time, Leech (1994) also proclaimed that “In the future,...the grammatical tagging of such large quantities of data is likely to have important applications” (Leech et al., 1994, p. 47). A quarter-century has passed since then, corpus linguistics has not only grown into a fully-fledged discipline in itself but been widely adopted by scholars in the field of translation studies in their research of various kinds. Furthermore, this trend had encouraged Robin et al. (2017) to claim that the spread of computer-readable electronic corpora has enabled researchers to apply corpus-based approaches to examine translated texts (Robin et al., 2017, p. 100).

#### *B. Use of Dictionaries and Corpora in Translator Training and Translation Practice*

One of the primary resources used by translators or translation trainers has been printed dictionaries (Bowker, 2000, p. 186). Dictionaries have long been the most important source of consultation for translators, regardless of professional translators or novice translators. An authoritative dictionary usually provides as many entries as possible, enabling the translators to find the equivalent meaning of some difficult words or phrases in rendering the target texts. A professional translator may use the dictionary entries as a clue to produce the closest equivalents in the target language, whereas novice translators tend to replace the words or phrases in the source language with the entries in the dictionaries mechanically. However, due to such shortcomings as limited space, the omission of terms or the lack of extended contexts, traditional dictionaries have apparent limitations in providing services to translators. The advent of corpora has changed the situation. With corpus linguistics being applied more and more widely to translation training and evaluation from the early 1990s, corpora have become “a useful complement to conventional translation resources” (Bowker, 1999, p.170). From dictionaries to the Internet and corpora, translators are relying more and more heavily on external sources. Compared with dictionaries, “corpora can provide greater coverage of the concepts and terms in a subject field,” and usage information can easily be obtained from a corpus consisting of authentic running texts written by subject field experts (Bowker, 2000, p. 187). What is more, “Corpora are also capable of providing information about the relative frequency of lexical items-information that is not typically provided in a dictionary even though it can be precious to translators” (Williams, 1996, p.290, cited from Bowker, 2000, p. 188).

While contending that Evaluation Corpus can significantly reduce the subjective element in the evaluation of translation product, Bowker also reminds that a corpus should not be taken “as a replacement for competence and critical judgment on the part of the evaluators, but rather as an aid to help them make sound and objective judgments” (Bowker, 2000, p. 206). This is a significant and timely reminder based on the fact that the application of corpus linguistics to translator training and translation studies seems to have been deemed as a fashionable approach, which has neglected the significance of laying a solid foundation for novice translators. However, when emphasizing the objectivity of corpora in identifying lexical errors made by student translators, Bowker (2000, p.199) hypothesized that corpus-based feedback would be more convincing and acceptable to students, which would “result in the production of higher quality translations.” It should be pointed out that corpus-based feedback alone is insufficient to enhance students' competence in rendering high-quality translations. Some concordances in target language found in some parallel corpora might not be the closest or appropriate equivalents judging from contextual or cultural criteria.

To sum up, both translation teachers and students must be wise in using dictionaries and corpora. Dictionaries provide entries and explanations, while corpora offer more examples and broader context, which complement each other. Translation teachers or trainers, in particular, should assume critical and creative thinking in their daily training practice with corpora.

### III. CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING IN CORPUS-AIDED TRANSLATION

#### *A. Creativity in the Translation Process*

People with little knowledge of translation tend to believe that translation is no more than finding the equivalents of the source language in the target language, retaining the meaning and style at the same time. For translation practitioners, it is not the case at all. Critical and creative thinking plays a crucial role in producing masterpieces of translation, and in some sense, creativity in translation is more complicated than in creative writing. As early as the 1970s, Preiser(1976, p. 2f) had already proposed such characteristics of creativity in translation as a novelty, surprising elements, singular or at least unusual, and the fulfillment of particular needs by fitting in with reality (quoted from Kussmaul, 1995, p. 39). According to Kussmaul, despite general discussion of creativity by such scholars as Wilss, who maintained that creative translation involves “unpredictable non-institutionalized use of language” (Wilss, 1988, p.127, quoted from Kussmaul, 1995, p. 39) and Alexieva, who believed that creative translation is a non-rule-governed selection of translation variant (Alexieva, 1990, p. 5, quoted from Kussmaul, 1995, p. 39), there had been no data-based

study in this respect until then, limiting his research to non-routine processes which give rise to problems that require creative solutions (Kussmaul, 1995, p. 39). Aranda maintained that although “creativity is an inevitable aspect of the translation process” involving “problem-solving” at an individual level, it has been “a neglected research topic in translation studies” (Aranda, 2009, p. 23) with scarce attention from the field of translation studies. The significance of creativity in translation lies in the fact that it introduces new concepts, new genres, and new devices and mirrors the shaping power of one culture on another (Aranda, 2009, p. 30). Kisiel (1990) had gone a step further, contending that translation is by no means “a seemingly slavish repetition” but “a creative repetition” that requires tact, boldness, and ingenuity, especially when none of the entries offered in the dictionary can fit the sense of the word used in the source text (Kisiel, 1990, p. 143-144). He thus regards the translator’s task as “more difficult than that of the original author” (Kisiel, 1990, p.144). From a translator training perspective, Hewson (2016, p. 20) defined creativity as:

*the ability to exploit the resources of both source and target languages to produce unpredictable micro-level translation solutions that are coherent with the macro-level interpretation given to the text and compatible with external parameters.*

He also claimed that creativity had rarely been explored in many general works on translation theory despite that creative approaches were frequently adopted by translation practitioners, especially in dealing with challenging texts in whatever fields. Furthermore, it was seldom studied in translation classrooms (Hewson, 2016, p. 23). Translation pedagogy generally focuses on principles, routines, norms, techniques, and technologies. In translated works, particularly literary translations, creativity differentiates an excellent translator from a mediocre translator, a masterpiece of translation from a commonplace one.

#### *B. Critical and Creative Thinking in Corpus-aided Translation*

As mentioned above, dictionaries and corpora, which complement each other, constitute primary consultation sources for translators. “Bilingual dictionaries provide normative translation solutions for lexical items, which are incorporated into standard syntactic patterns and governed by ‘correct’ grammatical usage” (Hewson, 2016, p. 14), while concordance tools enable translators to “see terms in a variety of contexts simultaneously” and frequency information can help translators to determine commonly or idiosyncratically used particular terms (Bowker, 1999, p.162;163 ). Therefore, corpora are “a useful complement to conventional translation resources” (Bowker, 1999, p. 170) in the real sense.

However, we should never overestimate the role of corpora in facilitating translating activities. While emphasizing the central role of corpus translation studies for the discipline of Translation Studies to remain vital and move forward, Tymoczko (1998, p. 1) suggested that “intuition and human judgment” are still essential components behind the establishment of corpora, which is no different from the design of any experiment or research program or survey. Therefore, translation practitioners and teachers must know that neither dictionaries nor corpora can replace translation competence, consisting of linguistic and extra-linguistic components. We should take advantage of technological advances in language and translation studies to gain access to a wide range of authentic and suitable texts. This would not only enable the trainers to verify or correct the students’ choices, both conceptual and linguistic, but provide more constructive and objective feedback based on the evidence (or lack thereof) in the corpus. Moreover, input enhancement through intensive exercises is always necessary and indispensable for nurturing language awareness and promoting linguistic competence in novice translators.

To assume critical and creative thinking in corpus-aided translation, we should:

- i. make use of the large number of concordances found in the parallel or monolingual corpora to set exercises for student translators;
- ii. apply translation norms acquired previously to make comments on and analysis of a few typical examples in the parallel corpora;
- iii. mobilize human judgment and creative thinking to improve some target texts.

In this way, corpus linguistics will be given full play in translation teaching and practice. In the following part, an example taken from a paper entitled “*The Role of ‘highly refined’ parallel corpora in translation teaching*” in the Journal of Chinese Translators was analyzed. First, we would like to express our thankfulness to the author. Second, it should be noted that the analysis was by no means a denial of the use of corpus by the author. On the contrary, this paper provided an excellent example of utilizing corpora in translator training. In this paper, the author illustrated the application of the parallel corpus “English-Chinese and Chinese-English Translation Distant Teaching System” developed by the City University of Hong Kong to her classroom teaching of translation. The source passage in the corpus is:

#### **(SL)KPMG could transform into a global partnership in 10 years**

The head of KPMG has forecast that the accounting firm could transform into a single global partnership within ten years.

*The radical reform would be a lasting solution to regulators' concerns that the big accounting firms offer inconsistent audit work standards across the world.*

Mike Rake, the international chairman of KPMG, said the creation of a single global would.

The Chinese version given in the corpus is as follows:

(TL)毕马威可能在 10 年内转成单一全球合伙企业

bì mǎ wēi kě néng zài shí nián nèi zhuǎn chéng dān yī quán qiú hé huǒ qǐ yè.

会计师事务所毕马威 (KPMG) 全球业务董事长麦克·雷克 (Mike Rake) 近日预言说, 公司可能在 10 年内转型成单一全球合作企业。

zài shí nián nèi zhuǎn chéng dān yī quán qiú hé huǒ qǐ yè.

监管部门一直担心, 大型会计师事务所在全球提供的服务标准不一致, 而上述根本性的改革将一劳

jiǎn guǎn bù mén yī zhí dān xīn, dà xíng kuài jì shī shì wù suǒ zài quán qiú tí gōng de fú wù biāo zhǔn bù yī zhì, ér shàng shù gēn běn xìng gǎi gé jiāng

永逸地解决这一问题。

yī láo yǒng yì de jiě jué zhè yī wèn tí.

雷克先生表示, 单一合伙人制度的确立将……

Rake xiān sheng biǎo shì, dān yī hé huǒ rén zhì dù de què lì jiāng……

The teacher first asked the students to compare the two versions and found that the second paragraph's theme-rheme structures differed in the source and target languages. Then, by clicking the tagging mark, students found the detailed analysis of translation strategies, through which they learned the theme-rheme structures in both English and Chinese texts, and were better informed of the effect of the theme-rheme system on the cohesion and coherence of the context. After that, the teacher suggested that the students produce their own version, which read as follows:

(S)这一根本性改革将一劳永逸地解除监管部门的忧虑, 监管部门一直担心大型会计师事务所在全球提供的审计标准不一致。

zhè yī gēn běn xìng gǎi gé jiāng yī láo yǒng yì de jiě chú jiǎn guǎn bù mén de yōu lǜ, jiǎn guǎn

bù mén yī zhí dān xīn, dà xíng kuài jì shī shì wù suǒ zài quán qiú tí gōng de fú wù biāo zhǔn bù yī zhì.

Based on the knowledge of the theme-rheme structure and the two different versions of the second paragraph, the teacher asked the students to discuss in groups, and most students believed that the student version read more fluently. After analyzing the differences between the two languages, the teacher pointed out that the target text's information distribution was not in line with the Chinese way of expression. In contrast, the information distribution in the target text in the corpus has been adjusted based on the Chinese logic sequence, which was more acceptable in terms of Chinese readers' expectations. The teacher finally summarized that the comparison between the two versions further indicated the interactive relationship between the selection of theme-rheme structure and textual coherence. The above is undoubtedly an excellent case of applying parallel corpora to teaching. Students were motivated and encouraged to produce their version. However, critical and creative thinking led us to challenge this approach and doubt whether there was still room for improvement in the target text. When we took a closer look at the sentence in question in the target text, we found that in the source language, the topic of the first paragraph was the transformation of the firm that could happen within ten years, and this is followed by “*the radical reform*” at the beginning of the second paragraph, realizing a cohesion and making the sentence read smoothly. Whereas the corresponding Chinese version of this paragraph begins with “*The regulators are concerned*” through back translation, which was not mentioned in the first paragraph, thus failing to achieve cohesion and sounded a bit abrupt. From this perspective, it is not a good translation either.

Based on the version in the parallel corpus and the student's rendering, we'd like to propose the following version of the sentence in question as follows:

这一根本性改革将一劳永逸地解决监管机构所关切的大型会计师事务所在全球提供的审计标准不一致的问题。

zhè yī gēn běn xìng gǎi gé jiāng yī láo yǒng yì de jiě jué jiǎn guǎn bù mén suǒ guān qiè de dà xíng kuài jì shī shì wù suǒ zài quán qiú tí gōng de fú wù biāo zhǔn bù yī zhì de wèn tí.

This version avoided the other versions' problems, achieving cohesion and introducing new information “regulators” smoothly. It is, therefore, assumed to be a better version. Maybe we are somewhat captious in this very tiny aspect. Instead of criticizing, it is suggested that when applying specific corpora to the teaching of translation or translation practice, it had better adopt human judgment by assuming critical and creative thinking rather than taking the offerings of the corpus blindly. We should mobilize our knowledge of and experience in translation to produce better versions, which will enhance the student translator competence more effectively and improve the quality of existing corpora.

#### IV. METHODOLOGY

##### A. Materials

The research was designed to illustrate the significance of critical and creative thinking in corpus-aided translation practice. The well-known opening paragraph of *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austin was taken as an example. Its thirteen Chinese versions of different periods by different translators were compared and analyzed.

As a romantic novel, *Pride and Prejudice* was first published in 1813 and has gained tremendous popularity among Chinese readers since it was translated and introduced into China. The opening remark, “*It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife,*” has not only become a

household sentence in everyday expressions but also remained a hot topic in the field of literature, marriage, love, and family, etc. Researchers like Wang Yan (2007, p. 100) used the novel as a corpus to study linguistic characteristics, plot development, and character personalities with such tools as WordSmith. However, almost no endeavor has been made to compare their differences based on the analysis of relevant corpora, not to mention applying corpus analysis to translation practice and translator training. In translator training, comparable bilingual corpora are often employed to explore stylistic features of texts by comparing words and phrases with strong formal resemblance (Laviosa, 2002, p. 102). Sometimes, translators also use bilingual corpora to produce better target texts based on the equivalents of the same words or phrases. In such cases, corpora play a similar role in dictionaries, with the differences lying in a larger number of examples and extended contexts. In this research, *The Babel English-Chinese Parallel Corpus* was used as a reference for evaluating the quality and differences of target texts produced by different translators. This corpus was created on a research project *Contrasting English and Chinese* consisting of 327 English articles and their translations in Mandarin Chinese. It contains 121,493 English tokens plus 135,493 Chinese tokens from 115 texts collected from the *World of English* between October 2000 and February 2001, and 132,140 English tokens plus 151,969 Chinese tokens from 212 texts selected from *Time* from September 2000 to January 2001. The corpus contains 544,095 words, including 253,633 English words and 287,462 Chinese tokens, from such articles as *The Future of Africa*, *My Only True Love*, *For Whom The Bell Tolls*, *Hacking the Cell's Circuitry*, *Blue Sky Still Out There*, etc.. Although this is not a purely literary corpus, it is large enough with comprehensive coverage and representativeness because the language of *Pride and Prejudice* is not difficult and can be read with relative comfort even it was written more than two hundred years ago.

Furthermore, general corpora such as BNC, COCA, COHA, and MCC (Modern Chinese Corpus) will also address the above parallel corpus' deficiencies. According to Laviosa (2002, p.103), general corpora can also have equal value for enhancing translator skills and refinement of contrastive knowledge of the source and target language. BNC is the British National Corpus with 100 million word collections of written and spoken language from a wide range of sources, designed to represent a broad cross-section of British English from the late twentieth century. COCA is the Corpus of Contemporary American English, containing more than 560 million words of text (20 million words each year 1990-2017), equally divided among spoken, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, and academic texts. MCC ([www.cncorpus.org](http://www.cncorpus.org)) is the corpus developed and maintained by the Chinese National Committee of Language and Characters, containing 19,455,328 tokens (including Chinese characters, letters, figures, and punctuations), 12,842,116 words (including single Character words, multi-character words, letter words, foreign words, the string of figures, punctuations), 162,875-word types in total, and 151,300 Chinese words (excluding foreign words, a string of figures and punctuation) from 9,487 texts selected from books, book chapters, journal and newspaper articles, etc.

#### B. Data Collection

The method of comparison was adopted to compare the thirteen versions of the opening remark of

*Pride and Prejudice* primarily focusing on keywords and phrases such as "truth," "must," and "be in want of," etc. Before the comparison, the information about the translators, publishing houses, the publication time, and the number of Chinese characters of each target text were collected. Then based on the results of the comparison, the Chinese equivalents of "truth," "must," and "be in want of" were listed to find out the differences. To have a clear picture of the differences in translation renderings, back translation from each Chinese version into English was provided. Concordance and Word Sketch were used to study more examples of the usage of the words and phrases mentioned above through Sketch Engine to observe their meaning within broader contexts and more examples.

During this process, the comparable bilingual corpora such as *The Babel English-Chinese Parallel Corpus*, and the monolingual corpora such as BNC, COCA, COHA, and MCC were used as sources to extract the usage of the keywords and phrases contained in the sentence of the question, as if we were looking at the collocations, the contexts and styles with an amplifier to see the exact meaning of these words and phrases more clearly to evaluate the quality of translated products by each translator. The table below (Table 1) shows the thirteen versions during the past sixty years from the 1950s to 2016. About half of the translators are professors from universities, which indicates that they had an excellent mastery of both English and Chinese languages. However, the target texts vary a lot in the diction of several keywords and phrases.

TABLE I (BELOW)

A	B	C	D	E	F
Translator	Publishing House	Time	It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.	Number of Chinese Characters	Note
Wang, Ke Yi	Shang Hai Yi Wen	1980	凡是有钱的单身汉，总想娶位太太，这已经成了一条举世公认的真埋。 Fanshi you qian de danshen han, zong xiang qu wei taitai, zhe yijing cheng le yi tiao jushigongren de zhenli.	28	Finished in the 1950s.
Sun, Zhi Li	Yi Lin	1990	有钱的单身汉总是要娶位太太，这是一条举世公认的真埋。 You qian de danshen han zong yao qu wei taitai, zhe shi yi tiao jushigongren de zhenli.	23	
Zhang Ling Zhang Yang	People's Literature Publishing House	1993	饶有家资的单身男子必定想要娶妻室，这是举世公认的真埋实埋。 Rao you jia zi de danshen nan zi biding xiang yao qu qishi, zhe shi jushigongren de zhenqing shili.	27	
Yi Hai	Hai Xia Literature & Art PH	1994	举世公认，一个拥有一大笔资产的单身男人，必定想要娶一个女人做太太，这已成为一条真埋。 Jushigongren, yi ge yongyou yi dabi zichan de danshen nanren, bi ding xiang qu yi ge nv ren zuo taitai. Zhe yi cheng wei yi tiao zhenli.	37	
Zhang, Jing Hao	China Translation & Publishing Corporation	2009	有钱的单身汉必定要娶妻，这条真埋无人不晓。 You qian de danshen han bi ding xiang qu qin, zhe tiao zhenli wu ren bu xiao.	19	Finished in 1995.
Li, Chang Shuan	Foreign Language Teaching & Research	1997	家产万贯而又尚未婚配的男人一定需要一位贤内助，这是一条世界上尽人皆知的真埋。 Jia chan wanguan er you shang wei hunpei de nan ren yi ding xu yao yi wei xian nei zhu, zhe shi yi tiao shijie shang jin ren jie zhi de zhenli.	37	
Fan, Qing Lan	SDX Joint Publishing	2010	富有的单身汉必定需要一位太太，这是一条举世公认的真埋。 Fu you de danshen han bi ding xu yao yi wei taitai, zhe shi yi tiao jushigongren de zhenli.	25	
Wang, Jin Hua	Bei Yue Literature & Art	2011	一个富有的单身汉所缺少的一定是一位年轻貌美的太太，这已是一条举世公认的真埋。 Yi ge fu you de danshen han suo que shao de yi ding shi yiwei nianqing maomei de taitai, zhe shi yi tiao jushigongren de zhenli.	36	Compilation
Luo, Liang Gong	Yangtz Literature & Art	2011	单身男人一旦有了钱财，必定想要寻妻觅偶，这是一个举世公认的真埋。 Dan shen nan ren yi dan you le qiancai, bi ding xiang yao xun qi mi ou, zhe shi yi ge jushigongren de zhenli.	29	Finished in 2007.
Fang, Hua Wen	Shang Hai Yi Wen	2011	单身汉如果手中拥有一笔可观的钱财，势必需要讨房妻室，这已成为举世公认的真埋。 Dan shen han ru guo shou zhong yong you yi bi ke guan de qian cai, shi bi xu yao tao fang qi shi, zhe yi cheng wei jushigongren de zhenli.	35	
Zhang, Chen Guan	Ji Lin	2013	凡是有钱的单身汉，总想娶位太太，这已经成了一条举世公认的真埋。 Fan shi you qian de danshen han, zong xiang qu wei taitai, zhe yijing cheng le yi tiao jushigongren de zhenli.	28	
Guo, Zhi Hong	Bai Hua Zhou Literature & Art	2013	富有的单身男子总是要娶，这是天经地义的事。 Fu you de danshen nan zi zong yao qu qi, zhe shi tianjingdiyi de shi.	19	
Li, Ji Hong	Tian Jin People's Publishing House	2016	有个道理众所周知：家财万贯的单身男子，肯定是需要一位太太的。 You ge daoli zhong suo zhou zhi: jia cai wan guan de dan shen nan zi, ken ding shi xu yao yi wei taitai de.	27	

From the table above, we got the proportion of each equivalent of “truth,” “must,” and “be in want of” produced by different translators (Graph 1, below).

## EQUIVALENTS OF “TRUTH”

真理 (zhēn lǐ)	真情实理 (zhēn qíng shí lǐ)	天经地义(tiān jīng dì yì)	道理(dào lǐ)	Total
10	1	1	1	13
77%	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%	100%

## EQUIVALENTS OF “MUST”

总 (zǒng)	必定(bì dìng)	一定(yī dìng)	势必 (shì bǐ)	Total
4	5	3	1	13
31%	38%	23%	7.7%	100%

## EQUIVALENTS OF “BE IN WANT OF”

想/想要 (xiǎng/xiǎng yào)	需要(xū yào)	要 (yào)	缺少(quē shǎo)	Total
6	4	2	1	13
46%	31%	15%	7.7%	100%

Here, ten out of thirteen equivalents of “truth” are 真理 (zhēn lǐ), accounting for 77% of the total. The equivalents of “must” are distributed relatively evenly, with four 总 (zǒng), 31% of the total, five 必定(bì dìng), 38%, while 一定(yī dìng) and 势必 (shì bǐ), accounting for 23% and 7.7% respectively. As per the phrase “be in want of,” six translators rendered it as 想/想要 (xiǎng/xiǎng yào), nearly half of the total, while 需要(xū yào), 要 (yào), and 缺少(quē shǎo) accounting for 31%, 15%, and 7.7% respectively. Which of the equivalents rendered by the translators in different periods has the closest meaning to the original? Is the equivalent of the highest proportion the best one? If not, what might be the better equivalent? We tried to answer these questions in the following section with the help of corpora.

## C. Results and Discussion

## The equivalent of “truth.”

We first searched for the word “truth” in *The Babel English-Chinese Parallel Corpus*, and 17 matches were returned. (Graph 2, below)

Your query "truth" returned 17 matches in 1 text (in 244,696 words [1 texts]; frequency: 69.47 instances per million words) [0.369 seconds - retrieved from cache]		
<input type="text" value="1"/> Show Page: <input type="text" value="1"/> No KWIC view available <input type="button" value="Show in random order"/> <input type="text" value="New query"/> <input type="button" value="Go!"/>		
No	Filename	Solution 1 to 17 Page 1 / 1
1	babel_e2c	Is it best to tell him the <b>truth</b> ? 最好把实情告诉他吗?
2	babel_e2c	Should they at least conceal the <b>truth</b> until after the family vacation? 还是他们至少应该在他与家人度假归来再告知真情?
3	babel_e2c	Studies show that most doctors sincerely believe that the seriously ill do not want to know the <b>truth</b> about their condition, and that informing them risks destroying their hope, so that they recover more slowly, or deteriorate faster, perhaps even commit suicide. 研究表明, 多数的医生真诚地相信, 重病号不想得知疾病的实情, 要是告知实情就会冒掉其希望的危险, 导致其康复得更慢或者恶化得更快, 甚至自杀。
4	babel_e2c	As one physician wrote: "Ours is a profession which traditionally has been guided by a precept that transcends the virtue of uttering the <b>truth</b> for truth's sake, and 'as far as possible do no harm." 正如一位医师所写的那样: "我们这个职业传统上一一直受一个信条支配: '职业传统上一一直受一个信条支配, 只要不造成伤害受一个信条支配, 可以超越讲真话的美德来编造谎言。"
5	babel_e2c	As one physician wrote: "Ours is a profession which traditionally has been guided by a precept that transcends the virtue of uttering the <b>truth</b> for truth's sake, and 'as far as possible do no harm." 正如一位医师所写的那样: "我们这个职业传统上一一直受一个信条支配: '职业传统上一一直受一个信条支配, 只要不造成伤害受一个信条支配, 可以超越讲真话的美德来编造谎言。"
6	babel_e2c	Studies show that, contrary to the belief of many physicians, an overwhelming majority of patients do want to be told the <b>truth</b> , even about grave illness, and feel betrayed when they learn that they have been misled. 恰恰与很多医师的观点相反, 研究表明绝大多数患者确实希望被告知真实病情, 哪怕病情严重。一旦得知受到欺骗, 他们就有被出卖的感觉。
7	babel_e2c	In <b>truth</b> , Bakelite - whose more chemically formal name is polyoxybenzylmethylenglycolanilidrid - was just a harbinger of the age of plastics. 事实上, 酚醛 - 其正式的化学名称是聚甲苯甲酞甘醇酞 - 只是预示了塑料时代的到来。
8	babel_e2c	The paper says it is impossible to distinguish a true from a false memory and it is dangerous to use confidence, vividness and detail as indicating <b>truth</b> . 论文认为, 要区分记忆真实与否是不可能的。而且, 用自信、生动以及详细作为判断真实性的标志是很危险的。
9	babel_e2c	She would never know the <b>truth</b> about the poems. 她永远也不会知道有关这些诗的事实真相。
10	babel_e2c	Johanna, I shall never let him know I found out the <b>truth</b> . 约翰娜, 我决不会让他知道, 我发现了事情的真相。
11	babel_e2c	Suddenly all the tension seemed to leave my body as the <b>truth</b> of what he said hit me. 我领悟了他话中的道理, 浑身的紧张顿时消失了。
12	babel_e2c	In <b>truth</b> , versions of the Net have been around since the 1960s, but it really only publicly caught on after the mid-1990s. 的, 各版本的互联网自从二十世纪六十年代以来就已出现, 但是一直到九十年代中期以后才真正引起公众注意。
13	babel_e2c	The <b>truth</b> is, I was goofing off. 事实上我只是在消磨时间。
14	babel_e2c	He's a mean <b>truth</b> teller and sometimes a curiously tender one. 他是一个糟糕的说真话者, 时而又不可思议地表现出柔情。
15	babel_e2c	Watching Dutch's obsessive pursuit of the <b>truth</b> is merely tedious and glum. 目睹达切鬼迷心窍般地查找真相的过程只会让人觉得沉闷又单调。
16	babel_e2c	But since people do n't always say what they think, marketers would need direct access to consumers' thoughts to get the <b>truth</b> . 但是由于人们并不总会说出心里话, 市场营销人员有必要直接了解消费者的真实想法。
17	babel_e2c	He also always told the bitter <b>truth</b> . 他总是把最可怕的实情告诉大家。



Of the seventeen examples found in the parallel corpus, "truth" is mostly rendered in Chinese as 实情[sh íq íng], 真情[zhēn qíng], 真相[zhēn xiàng], 事实[sh ísh í], meaning the fact, the real situation, and what happened, etc.. Maybe confined to the size of the corpus, 真理[zhēn lǐ] as the equivalent of "truth" rendered in most Chinese versions of the opening remark of *Pride and Prejudice* was not found in this corpus. Therefore, we resorted to the search for the English equivalents of 真理[zhēn lǐ] in the same corpus, and got only one result as follows (Graph 3, below):


Your query "真理" returned 1 matches in 1 text (in 275,361 words [1 texts]; frequency: 3.63 instances per million words) [0.45 seconds - retrieved from cache]		
<input type="text" value="1"/> Show Page: <input type="text" value="1"/> No KWIC view available <input type="button" value="Show in random order"/> <input type="text" value="New query"/> <input type="button" value="Go!"/>		
No	Filename	Solution 1 to 1 Page 1 / 1
1	babel_e2c	然而他是正确的。1983年, 苏布拉马尼扬·钱德拉塞卡获得了诺贝尔奖, 他的理论也变成了公认的 <b>真理</b> 。 But he was right; his 1983 Nobel Prize simply made it official.

A liberal strategy was adopted in the translation of the original sentence, and no English equivalent of 真理[zhēn lǐ] was found in this corpus.

Under such circumstances, we resorted to monolingual corpora of both English and Chinese to find the concordances of the word "truth" in English and 真理[zhēn lǐ] in Chinese to know the meaning of them in a large number of examples and extended contexts. With SearchEngine, we found 8,368 concordances of the word "truth" in BNC, most of which meaning real situation, or what happened as mentioned above. Very few of them could be translated into 真理[zhēn lǐ] as in the sentence in question (Graph 4 & 5 below)



truth   British National Corpus (BNC)

Query **truth** 8,386 (74.64 per million) 

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Written bo... of a pavement, we will not be far from the **truth** . At Lockleys, Herts., for example, six types of

Written bo... of discussion, dignity of life, stress on **truth** in scholarship, study in depth, no fear of

Written bo... like him as long as you live." *</p><p>* I will swear to the **truth** of that right now. Though it was not just his

Written bo... see I should have left myself out. To tell you the **truth** , I wasn't at all pleased about Russell sitting

Written mi... through sieves into stone water jars, and if the **truth** were told, it was probably not very alcoholic

Written mi... elsewhere, were discovering some home **truths** about quality control and the merits of

Written mi... must, therefore, take account of the central **truths** of the Catholic faith and present the rest in

Written mi... the rest in proper perspective. *</p><p>* These central **truths** are: \* the mystery of God, the Father, the Son and

Written bo... like presupposition, illocutionary force, **truth** condition to sentences or utterances,

Written bo... statements, and thus can sensibly be assigned **truth** conditions (as philosophers have long noted;

Written bo... years old These facts seem to establish that **truth** conditions must be assigned to utterances,

Written bo... , not to sentences alone (or, if one likes, **truth** conditions include context conditions). So

Written bo... semantics then one is forced to state **truth** conditions on sentences-in-contexts, or if

Written bo... , say, with the recursive assignment of **truth** conditions to well-formed formulae, so

Written bo... semantics is to be truth-conditional, then the **truth** conditions can only be assigned to utterances,

Written bo... . The sentence can only be assigned the right **truth** conditions, or alternatively be given the



Written bo... that A was a male superior (that would make **truths** relative to whomsoever they are addressed).


Written bo... the semantic content of a sentence with its **truth** conditions, then the semantic content of (4)

Written bo... individual who was the mother of Napoleon. The **truth** of (4) in no way depends on who says it, but simply

Written bo... ) I am the mother of Napoleon We cannot assess the **truth** of this sentence without taking into account

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truth   British National Corpus (BNC)

Query **truth** 8,386 (74.64 per million) 

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Spoken con... it's title is: Scientific Research, the Whole **Truth** , er and if you like I will draw the points out of

Spoken con... n't it? Erm. I think there's supposedly, a lot of **truth** in it, really is there. I suppose there are, odd

Spoken con... give that the evidence I shall give shall be the **truth** shall be the truth the whole truth the whole

Spoken con... I shall give shall be the truth shall be the **truth** the whole truth the whole truth and nothing but

Spoken con... shall be the truth shall be the truth the whole **truth** the whole truth and nothing but the truth and

Spoken con... shall be the truth the whole truth the whole **truth** and nothing but the truth and nothing but the

Spoken con... whole truth the whole truth and nothing but the **truth** and nothing but the truth thank you Mr take a seat

Spoken con... and nothing but the truth and nothing but the **truth** thank you Mr take a seat would you keep your voice

Written bo... of 1858 brought any serious social unrest. The **truth** is that the great economic boom provided

Written bo... observed that 'the belief in philosophic **truth** has cooled off to such an extent that neither the

Written bo... had its centre of gravity in Britain. The **truth** is that the social sciences reflected the

Written mi... persistence of an older and more fundamental **truth** . Data creation and data capture are at odds with

Written mi... ' and 'worst' scenario, acknowledging that the **truth** may often lie in-between. *</p><p>* At best, our record

Written bo... out of silence. Intruded in the syntax, **truth** interlards The structuring brain's concocted

Written bo... we miss sometimes the wit Only those who know the **truth** 's always Absconding can hit? The Bishop's face

Written bo... use for a generation, is faith In more than **truth** , for Jestling Pilate was inspired To ask the

Written bo... was inspired To ask the question of the Way, the **Truth** and the Life. The joke was on him, we presume. A

Written bo... have it off, though. No Innuendo - but doubtless **truth** in that. Two weeks later I'm taut on a clinical

Written bo... . Perhaps there was more than a grain of **truth** in the remark of one of his closest colleagues

Written bo... conclude that there may, after all, be a grain of **truth** in the mischievous quip attributed to Oscar

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Then we turned to MCC to look for the sentences containing the word 真理[zhēn lǐ], with 754 entries found from this corpus: Graph 6 (below)



ID	语旬
1	因为，毕竟名人也就是“一招牌”罢，既不可能说话句句真理，董文字字珠玑，也不可能事事都有新闻价值，样样都是行家里手。 #语料来源 [样本名称]:N/A.[作者]:N/A.[写作时间]:N/A.[出版时间]:1992-7-20.[书刊名称]:中国青年报.[编者]:N/A.[出版社]:中国青年报社
2	现代科学已充分证明了唯物辩证法物质可分性和不可穷尽性的伟大真理，亦就是证实了内在矛盾是普遍存在的。 #语料来源 [样本名称]:《论否定的否定规律》节录.[作者]:葛春霖.[写作时间]:N/A.[出版时间]:1964-2-20.[书刊名称]:新建设.[编者]:N/A.[出版社]:新建设杂志社
3	中国人之找到马克思列宁主义的普遍真理，也是如此，是对从1840年以来反对帝国主义、封建主义的阶级斗争的实践经验的总结，是付过沉重的代价的。 #语料来源 [样本名称]:《人的正确思想是从哪里来的?》节录.[作者]:萧前.[写作时间]:N/A.[出版时间]:1964-7-20.[书刊名称]:新建设.[编者]:N/A.[出版社]:新建设杂志社
4	只是在马克思列宁主义传入中国，建立了中国共产党，把马克思列宁主义的普遍真理与中国实际情况结合起来以后，中国的革命才得到真正蓬勃的发展，才得到今天的胜利。 #语料来源 [样本名称]:《人的正确思想是从哪里来的?》节录.[作者]:萧前.[写作时间]:N/A.[出版时间]:1964-7-20.[书刊名称]:新建设.[编者]:N/A.[出版社]:新建设杂志社
5	一百年来革命斗争的实践经验，失败的经验，成功的经验教育了我们，使我们真正理解到只有马克思列宁主义，只有马克思列宁主义普遍真理与中国革命具体实践相结合的毛泽东思想才是唯一正确的思想。 #语料来源 [样本名称]:《人的正确思想是从哪里来的?》节录.[作者]:萧前.[写作时间]:N/A.[出版时间]:1964-7-20.[书刊名称]:新建设.[编者]:N/A.[出版社]:新建设杂志社
6	我想，不外乎是真理可以常新，智慧的闪光并不是那么容易磨灭的缘故吧。 #语料来源 [样本名称]:《思想家的智慧》节录.[作者]:江霞.[写作时间]:N/A.[出版时间]:1980-4-10.[书刊名称]:读书.[编者]:N/A.[出版社]:生活·读书·新知三联书店
7	“科学是真理的反映”。 #语料来源 [样本名称]:《思想家的智慧》节录.[作者]:江霞.[写作时间]:N/A.[出版时间]:1980-4-10.[书刊名称]:读书.[编者]:N/A.[出版社]:生活·读书·新知三联书店
8	这是早经无产阶级革命导师反复阐明，并为国际共产主义运动和中国革命实践反复证明了的真理。 #语料来源 [样本名称]:《党的领导是我们必须坚持的基本原则》节录.[作者]:陈途.[写作时间]:N/A.[出版时间]:1979-3-1.[书刊名称]:红旗杂志.[编者]:N/A.[出版社]:红旗杂志社
9	人民用朴素的语言表达了这一颠扑不破的真理。 #语料来源 [样本名称]:《党的领导是我们必须坚持的基本原则》节录.[作者]:陈途.[写作时间]:N/A.[出版时间]:1979-3-1.[书刊名称]:红旗杂志.[编者]:N/A.[出版社]:红旗杂志社
10	马克思说的“人们的社会存在决定人们的意识”，就是经过实践证明了的真理。 #语料来源 [样本名称]:《树立共产主义世界观走历史的必由之路》节录.[作者]:马定.[写作时间]:N/A.[出版时间]:1979-3-16.[书刊名称]:红旗杂志.[编者]:N/A.[出版社]:红旗杂志社

The concordances in Chinese provided us with the various contexts in which 真理[zhēn lǐ] was used. It can be seen from the examples that in some contexts, 真理[zhēn lǐ] means “truth,” while in a lot of other cases, it refers to the objective things and their law of existence that are reflected in people’s mind. In the opening remark, “*It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife,*” “a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife” is a truth universally acknowledged, but is not necessarily 真理[zhēn lǐ] even though it is the choice of a dominant number of the translators. What Austen talks about is a social phenomenon that exists in societies of various cultures. In the concordances found in MCC, the word 真理[zhēn lǐ] is mostly associated with such words as “science,” “practice,” and “attest,” etc. The practice is the one, and the only one criterion by which 真理[zhēn lǐ] is attested. This expression is frequently used in Chinese discourses. Here 真理[zhēn lǐ] refers not only the fact or the real situation but also the law lying behind the fact or genuine concern.

From the above exploration of the corpora’s examples and context, the word “truth” here can be paraphrased as “an established idea” or a kind of concept or phenomenon that has been generally recognized. Based on such a judgment, it was assumed that the dominant 真理[zhēn lǐ] did not seem to be an appropriate equivalent of “truth.”

### The equivalent of “must.”

Of the thirteen versions of the opening remark of the *Pride and Prejudice*, four translators rendered the word “must” as 总(zǒng), five for 必定(bì dìng), three for 一定(yī dìng), and the remaining one for 势必(shì bì) as listed above.

As an auxiliary verb, “must” means (1) to be obliged or bound to by an imperative requirement; (2) to be under the necessity to; (3) to be required or compelled to. As per the above equivalents, 总(zǒng) means the tendency or general trend, while 必定(bì dìng) and 一定(yī dìng) are very close in terms of meaning. By standard query of these words in Babel Parallel Corpus (cn->en), we got the concordances (with a few examples shown below), which provided us with some clues to determine the appropriate equivalent of “must.” Graph 7 (below)

Your query “必定” returned 3 matches in 1 text (in 275,361 words [1 texts]; frequency: 10.89 instances per million words) [0.696 seconds]	
1	对植物和动物施以基因工程由于经济原因是被允许的，有人必定会试图把它用于人类。 Genetic engineering on plants and animals will be allowed for economic reasons and someone is bound to try it on humans.
2	怀特教授已迈71岁高龄，是一位在俄亥俄州开业的神经外科医生，十多年来一直认为人类头颅移植必定会实现。 Prof. White, 71, a practising neurosurgeon in Ohio, has advocated for more than a decade that human head transplants will happen.
3	一旦我们学会如何描绘我们的大脑，并且使电脑快到能模仿它，那么它将聪明到怎么说都不为过作为初学者，你应该认识到，一旦一台电脑达到能人的智力相比的水平，那么它必定将超过人脑。 Once we learn how to map the brain and make computers fast enough to simulate it, all bets are off For starters, you should realize that as soon as a computer achieves a level of intelligence comparable to human intelligence, it will necessarily eclipse it.

Graph 8 (below)

68	babel_c2e	只要有一个零售商有我想要的鞋，我想我们双方一定都能满意而归。 Should the right retailer match me up with the right pair of shoes, the retailer and I will both go home happy.
----	-----------	---

Graph 9 (below)

Your query "势必" returned 2 matches in 1 text (in 275,361 words [1 texts]; frequency: 7.26 instances per million words) [0.545 seconds]			
I <	<<	>>	> I
Show Page:	1	No KWIC view available	Show in random order
New query		Go!	
No	Filename	Solution 1 to 2	Page 1 / 1
1	babel_c2e	他们 <b>势必</b> 尽一切可能来保全这种表面形象，却很少会去培养自己内在的价值和注重个人的成长。 Inevitably they will do everything they can to preserve this facade, but they will do very little to develop their inner value and personal growth.	
2	babel_c2e	我心想，如果隆格获胜，那 <b>势必</b> 给纳粹的“优等民族”（雅利安人优异）论调增加新的佐证。 I guessed that if Long won, it would add some new support to the Nazis' "master race" (Aryansuperiority) theory.	

From the concordances of 必定(bì dìng), we can see that it means something that would “surely” or necessarily happen. The query of 一定(yī dìng) returned 85 matches, but since most of them meant “to a certain extent,” so they were not exactly what we wanted. The context of 势必(shì bì) indicates the meaning of “something will happen inevitably” or would happen. In some sense, this corpus did not provide valuable information for differentiating the purpose of the translators’ several words, respectively. Creative thinking should be mobilized to determine which of the four renderings was the most appropriate. It is generally believed that a physically, psychologically, and mentally healthy man will want or need a wife, which is quite natural in Western and oriental cultures. In Chinese culture, a single man in possession of a good fortune is usually under more necessity to have a wife than a single man without much wealth. A good fortune could consist of a large house or villa, or several houses or villas, various assets for maintenance, many servants to be supervised, etc., all of which need a capable person to maintain the smooth operation of the whole family. From this sense, 一定(yī dìng) and 势必(shì bì) seem to be the better equivalents in such a context.

### The equivalent of “be in want of”

From Figure 1 in section 4.3, we knew that, out of the thirteen Chinese versions, six translators rendered 想/想要(xiǎng/xiǎng yào) as the equivalent of the phrase “be in want of.” Through back translation, 想/想要(xiǎng/xiǎng yào) just meant “want” in Chinese, meaning “feel a need or a desire for” or “wish or crave for something.” Let us first have a look at the historical development of the usage of this phrase in COHA. Graph 10 (below)

SEARCH		FREQUENCY										CONTEXT										ACCOUNT	
SEE CONTEXT: CLICK ON WORD (ALL SECTIONS), NUMBER (ONE SECTION), OR [CONTEXT] (SELECT) [HELP...]		COMPARE																					
CONTEXT		ALL	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	
1	BE IN WANT OF	39	1	3	4	6	3	4	2	2	3	2	2		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
			4.703 seconds																				

The above graph shows the frequency of “be in want of” in nearly two hundred years from 1810 to 2000. It can be seen that this phrase has a lower frequency of use in history, starting from ONE in 1810 and reaching the highest of SIX in 1840. After that, it has been decreasing ever since. A few examples shown below provide us with the time and context of this phrase (Graph 11 below).

SECTION: 1810 (1)

CLICK FOR MORE CONTEXT		SAVE LIST	CHOOSE LIST	CREATE NEW LIST	SHOW DUPLICATES
1	1817 FIC Accusation A B C	. Hubert But you must not keep me long. My master will <b>be in want of</b> me. Mar. Marcel Oh yes! Such an honest servant can't			

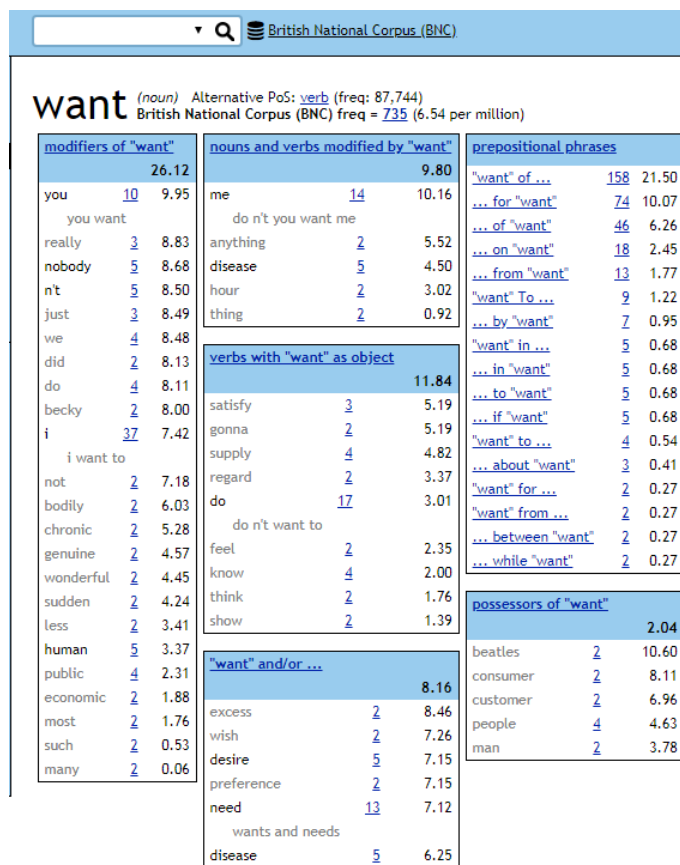
Graph 12 (below)

SECTION: 1840 (6)

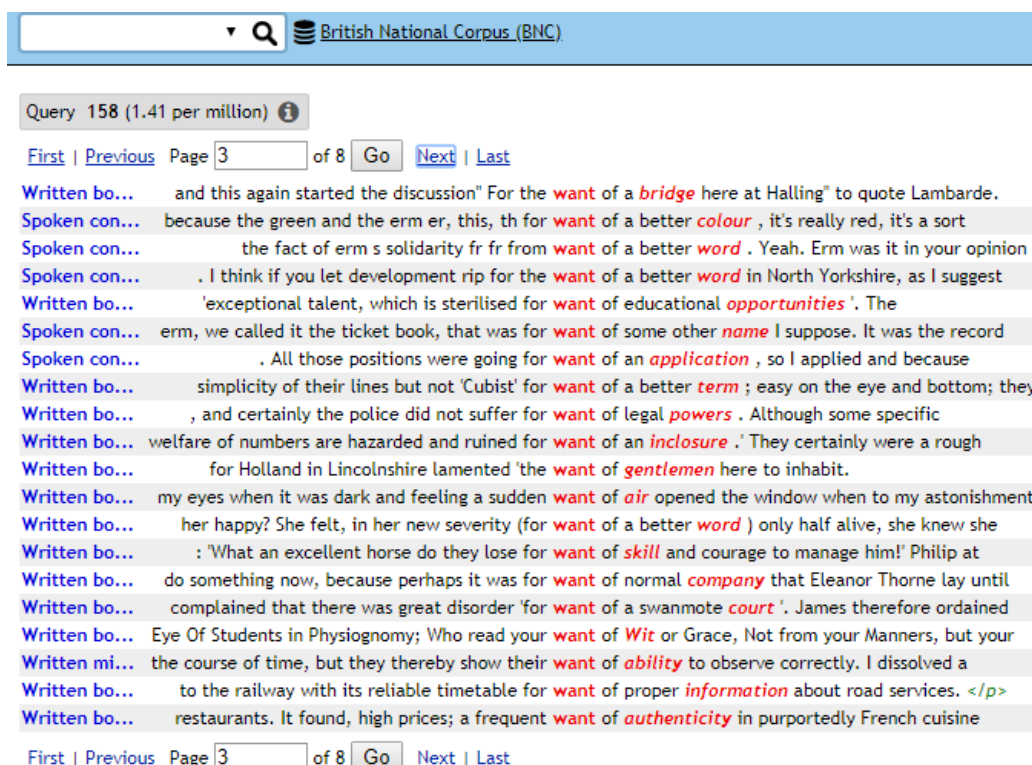
CLICK FOR MORE CONTEXT		SAVE LIST	CHOOSE LIST	CREATE NEW LIST	SHOW DUPLICATES
1	1841 FIC JulianScenesIn A B C	one part of which it is carved out. If the omnipotent Tiberius <b>be in want of</b> money, let the Greeks of Caesarea make a contribution of such pence as			
2	1841 NF TreatiseOnDomestic A B C	spirit, " and that he is supremely wretched. Another, may <b>be in want of</b> all things, and yet possess that living spring of benevolence, faith,			
3	1842 FIC GrandfathersChair A B C	allowed to keep possession of this beautiful country till the white men should <b>be in want of</b> it. " Did the pious men of those days never try to			
4	1847 FIC Omoo A B C	to be lying in the harbour, wooding and watering, and to <b>be in want of</b> men. All things considered, I could not help looking upon Taloo as			
5	1847 FIC AroundTheTea-Table A B C	we do not see that any church in city or country need long <b>be in want of</b> poor preaching. CHAPTER XXIX. SHELVES A MAN'S INDEX. In Chelsea			
6	1848 FIC Stranger A B C	withdraw my request; but on condition, that if ever you shall <b>be in want of</b> anything, I may be the first and only person in the world to			

From the contexts provided here, it seems that the phrase means “feel a desire for,” while in other contexts, it means “need.” So it is necessary to resort to corpora to investigate its usage further.

Through the function of “Word Sketch” in Sketch Engine, we used “want” as the lemma and found the following results in BNC (Graph13, below).



In the Prepositional Phrases, 158 cases of “want of,” and some concordances are shown as follows (Graph 14, below):





Corpus of Contemporary American English						
SEARCH	FREQUENCY		CONTEXT		ACCOUNT	
CLICK FOR MORE CONTEXT <input type="checkbox"/> [?] <input type="button" value="SAVE LIST"/> CHOOSE LIST <input type="text"/> CREATE NEW LIST <input type="text"/> [?] <input type="button" value="SHOW DUPLICATES"/>						
1	2017	FIC	BlkDutyToCrown	A B C	were inseparable for the three years that followed. # " You'll <b>be in want of</b> supplies if the fever spreads. We'll send you with all we have	
2	2017	NEWS	The Seattle Times	A B C	, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must <b>be in want of</b> a wife. "). And surely one of the greatest ever must	
3	2016	ACAD	Chronicle of Higher Education	A B C	acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must <b>be in want of</b> a wife. " It is good to read your own work with good	
4	2012	FIC	BlkJaneAustenMarriage	A B C	a single woman of thirty-nine and in possession of a good complexion must <b>be in want of</b> a husband. And a baby. Unless you are me. " My	
6	2009	FIC	Read	A B C	a truth universally acknowledged that a zombie in possession of brains must <b>be in want of</b> more brains. Narrator 2: Recently, an entire family was killed i	
7	2009	ACAD	AfricanArts	A B C	suggested, an individual who honors his commitment to the dead will never <b>be in want of</b> a supportive community. wI noted that his own conjuration of	
8	2006	FIC	BlkJuvOneDangerousLady	A B C	truth universally acknowledged that a widow in possession of a good fortune must <b>be in want of</b> a husband. Or so all my friends constantly tell me. Being	
9	1995	FIC	Omni	A B C	that a single woman in possession of the gratitude of her nation must <b>be in want of</b> a husband. # Nelson, newly bandaged, having set guards about the	
10	1991	ACAD	NaturalHist	A B C	be more suffering than there is now, for some people would always <b>be in want of</b> food if they multiplied greatly. That is why everything has an end.	
11	1990	MAG	HistoryToday	A B C	other articles; and we to purchase of you all that we might <b>be in want of</b> . The inflated idea the French gathered of the nature of these contacts	
12	1990	MAG	HistoryToday	A B C	things, you would lend him or sell him all that he might <b>be in want of</b> . # Scott wrote to the British Foreign Office intermittently over the next few	
13	1990	ACAD	Style	A B C	universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must <b>be in want of</b> a wife "), and after we see such actions as Charlotte Lucas	

From these concordances above, we knew that “be in want of” mostly means “be in need of,” which can be rendered as 需要[xū yào] instead of 想要 (xiǎng/xiǎng yào) in Chinese, as four translators did in the translation of the opening remarks in *Pride and Prejudice*. Just as what has been analyzed in this paper, it is quite natural for any healthy man to be looking forward to a wife, whereas in real life, a man of a good fortune is usually considered to be under more necessity to find a wife at least this is the case in Chinese culture. In other words, this is just like the relationship between a dream and reality. So 需要[xū yào] is more appropriate than 想要 (xiǎng/xiǎng yào) in this context.

#### A new version of the translation

The search results from the comparable parallel corpus and the monolingual corpora have enabled us to have a very close look at the meaning of the keywords and phrases such as “truth,” “must,” and “be in want of” in the opening remark of *Pride and Prejudice* of Jane Austen. Therefore, we have had a thorough analysis of the equivalents’ appropriateness of these words and phrases in Chinese as rendered by the selected thirteen versions. However, we should by no means be saturated with the analysis and appreciation. By assuming critical and creative thinking, we would like to propose another version of the opening remark:

家财万贯，单身男子，一定得有位贤妻内助，这在哪里都毫不稀奇。

jiā cái wàn gu àn, dān shēn nán zǐ, yī dìng děi yǒu wèi xián qī nèi zhù, zhè zài nǎ lǐ dōu háo bù xī qí.

## V. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the above discussion and analysis of the thirteen versions of the opening remark of *Pride and Prejudice* with the help of corpora that:

(1) Corpora, with a large number of concordances providing many more examples and extended contexts, are useful and powerful tools and sources for translation practice as well as translation training;

(2) It should be noted that each corpus has its limitations due to its size, representation, and coverage for its specific purposes of design;

(3) Because of the nature of corpora, there are generally no explanations for particular words or phrases. Therefore, they should be used in combination with dictionaries, both of which can complement each other;

(4) Some, at least from my judgment and analysis, inappropriate translations of the words and phrases investigated here, such as “truth,” “must,” and in particular, “be in want of,” are the result of the fact that these words and phrases seem too simple to be treated seriously. Therefore, some translators might take it for granted and produce the commonly matching equivalents from their minds quietly naturally;

(5) Novice translators are mostly likely to make such mistakes, moving an entry from the dictionary into their translation without trying to think hard to find a more appropriate equivalent based on the entries in the dictionary;

(6) Therefore, it is crucial in corpus-aided translation practice and translation teaching that translators or teachers should assume critical and creative thinking in corpora use. On the one hand, we can take advantage of the resources provided by various corpora, and on the other hand, we should not rely too much on corpora. Human judgment should be mobilized in the evaluation of the appropriateness of translation, especially those keywords and phrases;

(7) Lastly, as translation teachers, we should also consider that enhancing student translators’ competence through constant practice is still the priority in teaching or training activities; otherwise, students are much likely to be confused in front of such powerful tools as corpora.

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**Qingliang Meng** is a Ph.D. candidate at the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland. He received his M.A. by research degree from Donghua University, Shanghai, China. He is a lecturer of English in Jiaxing University, Zhejiang province, China. His research interests include second language acquisition, translation and interpreting studies, corpus linguistics, psycholinguistics, business English, intercultural communication, etc.