A corpus-based study of nominalization in English translations of Chinese literary prose

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Abstract

This study is designed to analyze the use of nominalization in English translations of Chinese literary prose based on eight English translations of Chinese novels. It follows 'Lees, R. (1963). *The Grammar of English Nominalizations*. The Hague: Mouton' in defining English nominalization as a nominalized transform of a finite verbal form and 'Mathesius, V. (1975). *Selected Writings in English and General Linguistics*. The Hague: Mouton' theory of 'complex condensation of the sentence'. It describes English nominalization from the formal-syntactic level as adverbial, in the positions of subject and object, condensing a finite clausal structure. In the qualitative analysis, various effects of the use of nominalization are described based on three English versions of the Chinese classic novel *Hong Lou Meng*. In the quantitative analysis, three general patterns of the use of nominalization are found in the eight English translations of Chinese novels: it is predominantly used as adverbial (as opposed to in the positions of object and subject), in the form of gerundive nominalization (as opposed to derived and zero-derived nominalizations), and in the narrative (as opposed to dialogues). In comparison with nominalization used in some English novels, it is found that nominalization is significantly more used in the English translations of Chinese novels at large.

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1 Introduction

Nominalization is generally regarded as one of the most widely studied linguistic phenomena. English nominalization is closely related to text types. According to Radovanovic (2001, p. 43–4), it 'appear[s] more often as a standard feature of some special functional styles/registers of language use, particularly of those like *political*, *legal*, *administrative*, *journalistic*, and *scientific*'. Wang (2003, p. 74) pointed out that 'the frequencies of English nominalization are directly related to the formalness

of the text type in which it appears. In other words, the more formal a text type is, the more frequently it will be used, and vice versa'. Due to this stylistic norm, it is less frequently used in less formal text types such as the text type of novels (ibid: 76). However, there is no knowing whether this stylistic norm applies to the use of English nominalization in translated literary prose because there has been scarce empirical research in this regard. Therefore, this study intends to conduct a corpus-based descriptive and explanatory study of the use of nominalization in English translations of Chinese literary

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prose works. For the reason why Chinese is chosen as a source language, refer to Section 2.

This article is structured as follows. Section 2 gives an overview of the study of English nominalization so as to lay a theoretical foundation for the present study. Section 3 introduces the theoretical framework, whereas Section 4 details the methodology in the study. Section 5 demonstrates various effects of the use of nominalization in English translation. Sections 6–9 deal with quantitative analyses of the use of nominalization in English translations of Chinese literary prose works and English literary prose works. Section 10 sets out a conclusion.

2 An overview of the study of nominalization in English

Nominalization is generally considered one of the most widely studied linguistic phenomena. The development of the theory of English nominalization, to a large extent, informs the whole process of the development of English linguistics. Major linguistic schools have addressed, to different degrees, the issue of English nominalization in their representative works.

In structural linguistics, the issue of English nominalization was brought to light primarily by the contributions of the Prague School (and mainly by its founding figure Vilém Mathesius). In his comparison of modern English and modern Czech, Mathesius (1975 [1961]) first used 'complex condensation of the sentence' to mean an introduction into a sentence of a nominal element or phrase replacing the finite verb of a subordinate clause and thus avoiding using a clausal structure. He pointed out that the most frequently used sentence condensers in English are the present participle, infinitive, and gerund.

Radovanovic (1978) developed an elaborate model of Mathesius' theory and applied it to predication analysis. He elaborated the analysis of English nominalization from the perspective of the sentence. He first investigated at the semantic-syntactic level nominalization as adverbial, actualizing a wide range of meanings (including temporal, causal, purposive, conditional, and concessive meanings), then considered at the formal-syntactic

level nominalization in the position of subject (as a condenser of nominal 'that'-clauses and adverbial clauses) and object (as a condenser of finite clausal structures), as an integral part of periphrastic predicate structures, as a constituent member of the nominal predicate, and as the basic predicational nucleus (in absolute use).

Casule (1989) adapted Radovanovic's elaborate model of Mathesius' theory and applied it to analyze the functioning, meaning, and structure of the verbal noun (non-finite verbal forms ending in '-nje') in the modern Macedonian literary language, as one of the representatives of the process of condensation and nominalization. He found that the verbal noun is the central, highly regular, and most productive condensed exponent of the process of nominalization. For more recent applications of Mathesius' theory, see Duris (2006) and Janigova (2007).

In transformational-generative linguistics, whether English nominalization belongs to part of the syntax [represented by Lees' (1963) transformational approach] or to part of the lexicon [represented by Chomsky's (1971) lexicalist approach] used to be a famous debate, although it is now mostly treated as part of the lexicon. Lees (1963), applying the transformational theory put forward by Chomsky (1957) to the analysis of phrases and sentences, assumed that English nominalization is a transformation process. On the other hand, Chomsky's (1971) position was that gerundive nominals (traditionally treated as the result of inflectional morphology) are transformationally derived from verbs, while derived nominals (traditionally regarded as the result of derivational morphology) should directly enter into the lexicon.

As a representative figure in cognitive linguistics, Langacker (1991, p. 22–50) made a special investigation of English nominalization from three main aspects: 'kinds', 'periphrasis', and 'predictability'. In addition, he noticed the semantic and cognitive differences between a deverbal noun (for example, 'explosion') and its verbal form (for example, 'explode'), although both may describe the same event—'There was an explosion!'; 'someone exploded'. According to Langacker (1987, p. 90), '*explode* and *explosion* contrast semantically because they use different images to construct the same

conceptual content: explode imposes a processual construal of the profiled event, explosion portrays it as an abstract region. Nominalizing a verb necessarily endows it with the conceptual properties characteristic of nouns'.

In comparison with the previous linguistic schools, the systemic-functional linguistic school represented by Halliday carried out a more systematic and in-depth study of English nominalization in relation to context. Halliday (1994, p. 352) defined it as 'the single most powerful resource for creating grammatical metaphor'. It is a mode marker of written English rather than spoken English in the sense that written English is characterized by 'complexity in the nominal group', while spoken English is 'marked by intricacy in the clause complex' (Halliday, 1987, p. 71).

Empirically, there has been limited research into the use of English nominalization in translation, although there are several descriptive studies of the use of nominalization in English, such as Biber *et al.* (1999) and Wang (2003), and in translation among other languages, such as Konsalova (2007). According to Biber *et al.* (1999: 322), the frequencies of common derivational suffixes used to form English nominalization such as '-tion', '-ity', '-ism', and '-ness' are different in different text types. Specifically, '-tion', '-ity', and '-ism' occur most frequently in academic writing, followed by their occurrences in conversation, fiction, and news, while '-ness' occurs most frequently in fiction, followed by its occurrence in academic writing, news, and conversation. Based on twenty English texts in each of the five text types, Wang (2003) found that the use of English nominalization differs greatly in them. Specifically, it enjoys the highest coverage in the legal text type (83.5%), followed by its coverage in science (72.6%), advertisement (40.3%), novel (27.2%), and fairy tale (0.7%). In translation studies, to test the explicitation hypothesis on the morpho-syntactic level, Konsalova (2007) examined the tendency in translation to use more explicit modes of expression than implicit devices. In comparing the frequencies of five types of morphosyntactic structures (including finite verbs in main clauses and deverbative nouns) in original Czech and German texts, she found that

Czech prefers more verbal modes of expression, while German prefers more nominal ones. Next, her examination of explicitating shifts (such as from deverbative nouns to finite verbs in main clauses) and implicitating shifts (such as from finite verbs in main clauses to deverbative nouns) in both German-to-Czech and Czech-to-German translation directions confirmed the explicitation hypothesis, in the sense that explicitation exceeds implicitation by 40.6% in Czech translations and by 47.8% in German translations.

In view of the state-of-the-art of empirical research on English nominalization, this study intends to conduct a corpus-based study of the use of nominalization in English translations of Chinese literary prose works and compare the results of its use with those of the use of nominalization in English literary prose works. The reason why Chinese is chosen as a source language is as follows. One the one hand, nominalization exists not only in English but also in many other languages closely related to it such as French, German, and Czech. Choosing any of them as a source language may inevitably lead to the result that nominalization in a source language influences the use of English nominalization in translation. On the other hand, as Chinese and English belong to two remarkably different language families with different grammatical systems, nominalization in the Chinese source language is by no means a factor triggering the use of English nominalization in translation (see examples in Section 5). In this sense, choosing Chinese as a source language makes the present study more worthy and valuable.

3 Theoretical framework

This study follows Lees (1963) in defining English nominalization as a nominalized transform of a finite verbal form. Three categories of the nominal (NOM) serve in this study as a representative of the process of nominalization, i.e. Gerundive NOM (GN), Derived NOM (DN), and Zero-derived NOM (ZN). Nominalized structures containing each of the three types of nominalization are explained by a process of syntactic derivation from their explicit sentential predications. In comparison

with their sentential predications, nominalized structures are implicit in terms of subject, object, verbal categories (tense, aspect, voice, or modality), and logical relations that their sentential counterparts may represent. In the context of translation, both a nominalized structure and its corresponding finite clausal structure constitute the translator's choice.

This study also follows Mathesius (1975) in considering English nominalization one of the manifestations of complex condensation of the sentence in the sense that the NOMs in nominalized structures introduced into sentences can replace the finite verbs of subordinate clauses.

4 Methodology

Based on Mathesius' (1975) complex condensation theory, which was subsequently elaborated by scholars such as Radovanovic (1978) and Casule (1989), this study described NOMs from the perspective of the sentence as adverbial, condensing adverbial finite clauses [of temporal (1), causal, purposive, conditional, and concessive meanings]; in the position of subject, condensing nominal 'that'-clauses (2) and adverbial finite clauses of temporal, causal (3), conditional, and concessive meanings); in the position of object complementing verbs, adjectives, and nouns, condensing nominal 'that'-clauses (4), 'if'-clauses (5), and relative finite clauses (6). Because the other syntactic functions of nominalization considered by Radovanovic (1978) and Casule (1989), like nominalization as an integral part of a periphrastic predicate structure, are not in line with the definition in this study of nominalized structures as an alternative of finite clausal structures, this study did not consider them.

(1) '[O]ur worthy senior has time and again said, in the course of a chat_ADV_TEM_ZN, that she can't see the earthly use of a man well up in years, as your lord and master is, having here one concubine, and there another?'

(Joly, 1893, p. 344)

(2) '[Y]our complete recovery_SUB_THAT_DN, uncle, is really a blessing to our whole family.'

(Joly, 1893, p. 22)

(3) Jia Zhen's and Madam You's kind reception_SUB_CAU_DN had transformed her indignation into pleasure.

(The Yangs, 2003, p. 277)

(4) '[A]s soon as I heard of her (P'ing Erh's) arrival_OBJ_VERB_DN, I casually remembered that her mistress employed, during her time, such domestics as were up to all kinds of larks.'

(Joly, 1893, p. 523)

(5) 'If the Lady Dowager or Lady Wang were here I wouldn't mind your drinking_OBJ_VERB_IF_GN a whole jarful.'

(The Yangs, 2003, p. 233)

(6) After some days on the road they were approaching the capital when word came of the promotion_OBJ_NOUN_DN of his uncle Wang Ziteng to the post of Commander-in-Chief of Nine Provinces with orders to inspect the borders.

(The Yangs, 2003, p. 113)

All occurrences of the NOMs were manually tagged after careful consultation of the two authoritative English grammar books: *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (Quirk *et al.*, 1985) and *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* (Biber *et al.*, 1999). This consultation is necessary especially for determining which verbs, adjectives, and nouns can be complemented by finite clausal structures. A NOM tag was joined with a lexical unit by the underscore [see (1)–(6) above]. In (1), ADV_TEM_ZN denotes that 'chat' is a ZN and 'in the course of a chat' is an adverbial structure and condenses an adverbial finite clause of temporal meaning. In (2), SUJ_THAT_DN denotes that 'recovery' is a DN and 'your complete recovery' is in the position of subject and condenses a nominal 'that'-clause. In (5), OBJ_VERB_IF_GN denotes that 'drinking' is a GN and 'your drinking' is in the position of object complementing the verb 'mind' and condenses an 'if'-clause. After the tagging was finished, the corpus software AntConc was used for statistical purposes.

In this study, both qualitative and quantitative analyses were conducted. The qualitative analysis dealt with describing various effects of the use of English nominalization in translation. Because nominalized structures and their corresponding finite clausal structures constitute the translator's choice, it is a good way to demonstrate the effects of their use based on different versions of a same source text. In view of this, we decided to choose three English versions of the Chinese classic novel *Hong Lou Meng* (HLM) (Table 1). The quantitative analysis dealt with how nominalization was used in

the three English versions of *HLM* and five other English translations of Chinese novels (see Table 1 for a brief introduction to them).[1] Finally, a comparative quantitative analysis of nominalization was made between the eight English translations and five English novels (see Table 1 for a brief introduction to them).[2] A brief introduction of the three English versions of *HLM* is as follows.

HLM was written in the middle of the eighteenth century during the Qing Dynasty (1616–1911). It is generally considered to be a semi-autobiographical story, mirroring the rise and fall of the author Cao Xueqin's (about 1715–63) own family and, by extension, of the Qing Dynasty. It is universally acknowledged to be a pinnacle of Chinese novels and highly reputed as an encyclopedia of Chinese culture. The three English versions chosen are *Hong Lou Meng* (1892–93) by Bencraft Joly (to be abbreviated as Joly hereafter), *The Story of the Stone* (1973–86) by David Hawkes and John Minford (to be abbreviated as Hawkes hereafter), and *A Dream of Red Mansions* (2003) by Yang Xianyi and Gladys Yang (to be abbreviated as the Yangs hereafter). Of them, Joly's version is a complete translation of the first fifty-six chapters, while the other two versions are both complete 120-chapter productions. Hawkes translated the first eighty chapters, while Minford translated the remaining forty chapters later on. The Yangs' version was first prepared by Mr. Yang and then polished by his wife.

5 A demonstration of the effects of nominalization in translation

In this section, eight examples were chosen for demonstrating various effects of the use of NOMs

based on the three versions of *HLM*. This demonstration was coupled with a grammatical analysis of the nominalized structure(s) in each example and what it corresponds/they correspond to in the source text and in the other translation(s).

(7)　当日林如海教女以惜福养身，云饭后务待饭粒咽完，过一时再吃茶，方不伤脾胃。

过	一时	再	吃	茶
guò	yìshí	zài	chī	chá
after	some time	then	drink	tea

(Cao and Gao, 2003, p. 80)

Hawkes: Dai-yu's parents had brought their daughter up to believe that good health was founded on careful habits, and in pursuance of this principle, had always insisted that after a meal one should allow a certain interval to elapse <u>before taking tea</u> in order to avoid indigestion.

(Hawkes, 1973, p. 99)

Joly: [T]he Lin family had all along impressed upon the mind of their daughter that in order to show due regard to happiness, and to preserve good health, it was essential, after every meal, to wait a while, <u>before drinking any tea</u>, so that it should not <u>do any harm</u> to the intestines.

(Joly, 1892, p. 48–49)

The Yangs: Now Lin Ruhai had taught his daughter the virtue of moderation and the harm caused to the digestive system by <u>drinking tea</u> directly after a meal.

(The Yangs, 2003, p. 81)

In example (7), the original sentence concerns Daiyu's recollection of his father's teaching of a general principle of preserving good health. Both

Table 1 The eight English translations of Chinese novels and the five English novels

The eight English translations of Chinese novels	The three English versions of *HLM*			The Journey to the West (1973–77)	Journey to the West (1982–86)	Camel Xiangzi (1988)	Three Kingdoms (1994)	Fortress Besieged (2003)
	Joly's version (1892–93)	The Yangs' version (2003)	Hawkes' version (1973–80)					
The five English novels	*Jane Eyre* (1847)	*Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (1891)		*Moment in Peking* (1939)	*Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949)			*The Bridges of Madison County* (1992)

Hawkes and Joly chose a nominalized structure (introduced by the preposition 'before') as a condenser of temporal clause, which makes implicit the subject and present tense, while the Yangs chose a gerundial structure (introduced by the passive marker 'by'). Both nominalized structures give an objective effect, which contributes to the general applicability of the health-preserving principle.

(8)　一日,<u>正当嗟悼之际</u>,俄见一僧一道远远而来。

正	当	嗟	悼	之	际
zhèng	*dāng*	*jiē*	*dào*	*zhī*	*jì*
just	when	lament	grieve	attributive marker	time

(Cao and Gao, 2003, p. 4)

Hawkes: One day, <u>in the midst of its lamentings</u>, it saw a monk and a Taoist approaching from a great distance.

(Hawkes, 1973, p. 47)

Joly: One day, <u>while it lamented its lot</u>, it suddenly caught sight, at a great distance, of a Buddhist bonze and of a Taoist priest coming towards that direction.

(Joly, 1892, p. 3)

The Yangs: One day <u>as the Stone was brooding over its fate</u>, it saw approaching from the distance a Buddhist monk and Taoist priest.

(The Yangs, 2003, p. 5)

In example (8), the context of the passage immediately before the extract is that observing that all the other blocks have been used for celestial repairs and that it was the only one rejected as unworthy, the stone was filled with shame and resentment and passed its days in sorrow and lamentation.

In translating, Hawkes chose a nominalized structure (introduced by the prepositional phrase 'in the midst of') as a condenser of temporal clause. This structure makes implicit the past progressive aspect and the object. In contrast, Joly and the Yangs each chose a finite clausal structure where Joly rendered 嗟悼 into 'lamented' and added 'its lot' as its object, while the Yangs rendered 嗟悼 into 'brooding over' and added 'its fate' as its object. In terms of stylistic effect, Hawkes' choice of 'lamenting' in the plural form intensifies the stone's lament, while both the Yangs and Joly's choices make the object of the stone's lament more explicit.

(9)　尤氏叹道:'<u>他自己又老了</u>,又不顾体面,一味的吃酒,一吃醉了,无人不骂。'

他	自己	又	老	了
tā	*zijǐ*	*yòu*	*lǎo*	*le*
he	himself	particle	old	particle

(Cao and Gao, 2003, p. 212)

The Yangs: Madame You sighed, '<u>since growing old</u> he has no regard for appearances. He does nothing but drink and when he's drunk he abuses everyone'.

(The Yangs, 2003, p. 213)

Hawkes: '[S]<u>ince he's grown old</u> he has let himself go completely. He drinks all the time, and when he's drunk he starts abusing everybody—literally *everybody*.'

(Hawkes, 1973, p. 181)

Joly: '<u>He is also advanced in years</u>, and doesn't care about any decent manners; his sole delight is wine; and when he gets drunk, there isn't a single person whom he won't abuse.'

(Joly, 1892, p. 118)

In example (9), the context of the passage surrounding the extract is that Jiao Da, an old manservant in the Ningguo mansion, was loudly cursing his master since he was assigned to send Qin Zhong home at night. In translating, the Yangs chose a nominalized structure (introduced by the preposition 'since') as a condenser of causal clause. This structure gives a concise effect because it makes implicit the subject and present perfect aspect. In contrast, both Hawkes and Joly chose a finite clausal structure. With regard to 老 ('grow old'), Joly chose 'advanced in years', which is often used as a formal and polite expression of saying someone is old. Here, Joly's expression may not reflect the tone in the original where Madame You was complaining about Jiao Da's taking advantage of his old age and lack of decent manners rather than showing respect to him.

(10)　贾母起身进内间<u>更衣</u>,众人方各散出。

贾母	起身	进	内	间	更衣
jiǎmǔ	*qǐshēn*	*jìn*	*nèi*	*jiān*	*gēngyī*
lady Jia	rise	enter	inner	room	change clothes

(Cao and Gao, 2003, p. 1534)

Joly: [D]owager lady Chia rose and penetrated into the inner chamber <u>with the purpose of effecting a change in her</u> costume, so the several inmates present could at last disperse and go their own way.

(Joly, 1893, p. 476)

The Yangs: [T]he Lady Dowager rose and went into the inner room <u>to change her clothes</u>, whereupon the party <u>broke up</u>.

(The Yangs, 2003, p. 1535)

Hawkes: [W]hen all had eaten and drunk, Grandmother Jia rose and went into an inner room <u>to change out of her court dress, which she had all this time been wearing.</u> This was a signal for the others present to disperse.

(Hawkes, 1977, p. 574–5)

In example (10), 进 ('enter') and 更衣 ('change clothes') constitute a serial verbal construction. Joly rendered 更衣 into a nominalized structure (introduced by a formal prepositional phrase 'with the purpose of') as a condenser of purposive clause, while both the Yangs and Hawkes chose a concise infinitival structure. The nominalized structure makes implicit the subject and the modal verb 'could'. In translating 更 ('change'), Joly chose a periphrastic predicate structure 'effect(ing) a change', which is formal and often found in 'officialese' (Olsson, 1961, p. 221). Joly's use of the prepositional phrase and the periphrastic predicate structure makes lady Jia's clothes-changing rather formal. With regard to 衣 ('clothes'), Hawkes made a semantic explicitation, as shown by 'her court dress, which she had all this time been wearing'. This treatment helps the reader understand the background information.

(11) (1) 偏那秦钟秉赋最弱,(2) <u>因在郊外受了些风霜</u>,(3) <u>又与智能儿偷期缱绻</u>,(4) 未免失于调养,(5) 回来时便咳嗽伤风,(6) 懒进饮食,(7) 大有不胜之态,(8) 遂不敢出门,(9) 只在家中养息。

因	在	郊外	受	了	些	风	霜	又	与	智能儿	偷期	缱绻
yīn	zài	jiāowài	shòu	le	xiē	fēng	shuāng	yòu	yǔ	zhìnéngr	tōuqī	quǎnqiǎn
since	in	countryside	catch	aspect marker	some	wind	frost	also	with	Zhinengr	secretly	have an affair

(Cao and Gao, 2003, p. 398)

Hawkes: (1) Qin Zhong's always sickly constitution (4) had been much neglected during their two-day excursion into the country, and (2) <u>the unwonted exposure to wind and cold</u> and (3) <u>immoderate indulgence in secret frolic with Sapientia</u> (5) had resulted on his return in a cough and chill (6) accompanied by total loss of appetite. (7) Altogether he presented so sorry a spectacle (8) that study was quite out of the question and (9) they were obliged to send him back home to bed.

(Hawkes, 1973, p. 302)

Joly: (1) Ch'in Chung, who was naturally of an extremely delicate physique, (2) <u>caught somewhat of a chill in the country</u> and (3) <u>clandestinely indulged, besides, in an intimacy with Chih Neng,</u> (4) which unavoidably made him fail to take good care of himself, he was, (5) shortly after his return, troubled with a cough and a feverish cold, (6) with nausea for drink and food, and (7) fell into such an extremely poor state of health that (8) he simply kept indoors and nursed himself, and (9) was not in a fit condition to go to school.

(Joly, 1892, p. 223)

The Yangs: (1) Qin Zhong had a weak constitution, and (2) <u>a cold he had caught in the country</u> following (3) <u>his secret affair with Zhineng</u> had (4) upset him; thus (5) on his return to town (6) he developed a cough and (7) lost his appetite completely. (8) Too weak to go out, (9) he had to rest at home.

(The Yangs, 2003, p. 399)

In example (11), both the original verbal clausal structures (2) and (3) denote causal meaning, as shown by the causal conjunction 因 ('since'). In translating, Hawkes chose to shift them to two nominalized structures. They appear in the position of subject and function as a condenser of two finite clausal structures of causal meanings. These two and other translation shifts contribute to maintain a

smooth flow of the discourse in his translation because they link the original short paratactic units in a hypotactic way. According to Longacre (1983, p. 327), '[i]t is essential that certain predications be nominalized or at least subordinated in some fashion and shoved to the side. They must not be permitted to impede the flow of the discourse'. The Yangs chose to shift the original structures (2) and (3) to two noun phrases. These two and other translation shifts equally contribute to maintain a smooth flow of the discourse in their translation. However, Joly chose to render them in two clausal structures. These two and other formal correspondences seem to interrupt the flow of the discourse in his translation in that the end product consists of a series of sentences or clauses rigidly strung together.

(12) 李纨道："原是依我评论，不与你相干，<u>再有多说者必罚</u>。"

再	有	多	说	者	必	罚
zài	yǔu	duō	shuō	zhě	bì	fá
still	have	more	say	person	must	penalize

<div align="right">(Cao and Gao, 2003, p. 1026)</div>

The Yangs: 'I'm the arbiter', insisted Li Wan. 'You've no say in the matter. <u>Any more argument</u> will be penalized.'

<div align="right">(The Yang, 2003, p. 1027)</div>

Hawkes: 'You agreed to abide by my decisions', said Li Wan. 'I don't think the rest of you have any say in the matter. <u>If anyone questions a decision of mine in future</u>, he will have to pay a penalty.'

<div align="right">(Hawkes, 1977, p. 225)</div>

Joly: 'You should', argued Li Wan, 'fall in with my judgment; this is no business of any of you, so <u>whoever says anything more</u> will have to pay a penalty.'

<div align="right">(Joly, 1893, p. 201)</div>

In example (12), the original concerns a family poetry-writing competition among the young people with Li Wan elected as judge. She is characterized as an independent and strict judge. The original underlined structure implies conditional meaning. In translating, the Yangs chose a nominalized structure as a condenser of conditional clause,

while the other two translators each chose a finite clausal structure. In terms of stylistic effect, the Yangs' nominalized expression is concise and forceful. It contributes to portraying Li Wan as an authoritative arbitrator, as it is more like the language of an order conveying a stronger and more direct tone.

(13) 袭人只得唤起两个丫鬟来，一同宝钗出怡红院，自往凤姐这里来。果然是告诉他这话，又叫他与王夫人叩头，且不必去见贾母去，倒把袭人不好意思的。

果然是	告诉	她	这	话
gu ránshì	gàosu	tā	zhè	huà
really	tell	her	this	news

<div align="right">(Cao and Gao, 2003, p. 994)</div>

The Yangs: Xiren woke two of the other girls and left Happy Red Court with Baochai, going on alone to Xifeng's quarters. There she was indeed informed of <u>her promotion</u> and told to go and kowtow to <u>Lady Wang</u>, but not to trouble the Lady Dowager. Xiren was quite overwhelmed.

<div align="right">(The Yangs, 2003, p. 995)</div>

Hawkes: Aroma had to arouse two of the sleeping maids to take her place in the inner room; then she and Bao-chai left Green Delights together. They parted company outside, and Aroma went off to Xi-feng's place on her own. When she got there she was, as Bao-chai had predicted, formally acquainted with <u>the new arrangements concerning her pay and status that had just been made for her by Lady Wang</u>. She found this interview with Xi-feng acutely embarrassing.

<div align="right">(Hawkes, 1977, p. 204)</div>

Joly: Hsi Jen could not therefore do otherwise than arouse two servant-maids and go. She proceeded, with Pao-ch'ai, out of the I Hung court, and then repaired all alone to lady Feng's on this side. It was indeed to communicate to her <u>what had been decided about her</u>, and to explain to her, as well, that though she could go and prostrate herself before Madame Wang, she could dispense with seeing dowager lady Chia. This news made His Jen feel very awkward.

<div align="right">(Joly, 1893, p. 184–5)</div>

In example (13), the context around the extract is that Baoyu's mother Lady Wang instructed Xifeng to increase the monthly allowance of Baoyu's senior maid Xiren and to pay her at the same rate the two concubines of Baoyu's father would enjoy in future. Xiren's enjoying a higher rate in payment implies Lady Wang's promotion of her in status as Baoyu's concubine or chamber wife. 这话 ('this news') refers to Lady Wang's arrangements.

The Yangs chose a nominalized structure as complement of the verb 'inform(ed)'. This structure gives a terse effect since it makes implicit both past perfect aspect and voice. Semantically, the Yangs' choice of 'her promotion' is an exact summary of what 这话 represents while Hawkes' underlined choice details everything about 这话. Both choices are more explicit than Joly's choice.

(14) 麝月忙披衣起来道:"咱们叫起他来,穿好衣服,抬过熏笼去,再叫他们进来。老嬷嬷们已经说过,不叫他在这屋里,<u>怕过了病气</u>。"

怕	过	了	病气
pà	guò	le	bìngqì
fear	catch	particle	sickness

(Cao and Gao, 2003, p. 1488)

The Yangs: 'Let's get him up and dressed first, and move away this clothes-warmer before we call the others', she proposed. 'The nurses said he wasn't to sleep in this room <u>for fear of infection</u>.'

(The Yangs, 2003, p. 1489)

Hawkes: 'We'd better *both* wake him and wait till he's dressed and the clothes-warmer has been carried back to its usual place before we let the others in', she said. 'The old women have already said that he's not to sleep in the same room as you <u>in case he catches your sickness</u>.'

(Hawkes, 1977, p. 543)

Joly: 'Let's call him to get up and dress in his fine clothes', she said. 'We can summon them in, after this fire-box has been removed. The old nurses told us not to allow him to stay in this room <u>for fear the virus of the disease should pass on to him</u>.'

(Joly, 1893, p. 452–3)

In example (14), the original concerns Sheyue's dialogue with Qingwen who is still sick with a cold. In fact, Sheyue could have expressed the underlined part in another way of 怕过了你的病气, which adds 你的 ('your') as a possessive pronoun of 病气 ('sickness'). However, she feels embarrassed to do so because she is clearly aware that Qingwen dislikes people talking about her sickness.

The Yangs chose a nominalized structure 'infection' as complement of 'fear', while both Hawkes and Joly chose a finite clausal struture. The nominalized structure is concise because it makes implicit the subject, the object, present tense, and voice. In rendering 怕, Hawkes chose 'in case', which is more colloquial, while both the Yangs and Joly chose 'fear', which sounds more serious. In rendering 病气, Hawkes chose a less serious word 'sickness', while Joly chose a medically flavored expression 'the virus of the disease'. In sum, Hawkes' choices are more appropriate in reproducing Sheyue's tone.

6 A quantitative analysis of noms in the three English versions of *HLM*

Table 2 shows statistical results of the NOMs used in the first fifty-six chapters of the three English versions of *HLM*. Although their uses of the NOMs differ in total number (1,311 versus 809 versus 746) and average coverage (1/337 versus 1/347 versus 1/516), they are similar in at least the following three aspects.

Firstly, the NOMs were all predominantly used as adverbial as opposed to in the positions of object and subject. This predominance ranges from 77% of the total number of the NOMs in Hawkes' version up to 92% of the total number of the NOMs in Joly's version. Secondly, the NOMs appeared more frequently in the form of GN than in the forms of DN and ZN. The total number of GNs account for about 50% of the total number of the NOMs in each version. Thirdly, the NOMs were all predominantly used in the narrative as opposed to in dialogues (74% versus 26% in Joly's version, 64% versus 36% in the Yangs' version, and 72% versus 28% in Hawkes' version). For more details of the NOMs used in the three versions of *HLM*, refer to Hou (2011).

Table 2 Quantitative results of the NOMs used in the first fifty-six chapters of the three English versions of *HLM*

The NOMs	Joly's version (1892–93)	The Yangs' version (2003)	Hawkes' version (1973–80)
As adverbial	1,202 (92%)	636 (79%)	575 (77%)
In the position of subject	32 (2%)	63 (8%)	52 (7%)
In the position of object	77 (6%)	110 (13%)	119 (16%)
Total number	1,311	809	746
GNs/DNs/ZNs	647/408/256 (49/31/20%)	443/216/150 (55/27/18%)	466/185/95 (62/25/13%)
Number of words covered	441,939	280,745	384,848
Average NOM coverage	1/337	1/347	1/516
Dialogue/narrative	336/975 (26/74%)	294/515 (36/64%)	212/534 (28/72%)

7 A quantitative analysis of NOMs in other English translations of Chinese prose works

Table 3 shows statistical results of the NOMs used in the other five English translations of Chinese literary prose works. As far as their differences are concerned, one major difference lies in their average NOM coverages, which range from the lowest 1/944 in *The Journey to the West* to the highest 1/301 in *Camel Xiangzi*. This difference is inevitable given that these translations are based on the Chinese works different from each other in such aspects as author, plot, and year of publication. Even for the two English translations of the same Chinese novel *Xi You Ji*, their average NOM coverages are also different, which may be attributed to the different translation purposes of their respective translators or the different social and cultural milieus in which they were immersed.

As far as their similarities are concerned, at least three patterns were found. Firstly, the NOMs were all significantly more used as adverbial than in the positions of object and subject. The NOMs as adverbial account for 70–94% of the total occurrences of the NOMs in each version. Secondly, GNs were all significantly more used than DNs and ZNs. The occurrences of the GNs account for 59–75% of the total occurrences of the NOMs. Thirdly, the NOMs were all significantly more used in the narrative than in dialogues. The occurrences of the NOMs in the narrative account for 69–100% of the total occurrences of the NOMs in each version. Obviously, these three patterns are consistent with the three

patterns revealed from the use of the NOMs in the three English versions of *HLM*.

8 A quantitative analysis of NOMs in some English literary prose works

Table 4 lists statistical results of the use of the NOMs in the five English novels, from which at least three patterns were found. Firstly, the NOMs were all significantly more used as adverbial, followed by their use in the positions of object and subject. The percentage of NOMs as adverbial ranges from 67% in *Tess of the D'urbervilles* to 87% in *The Bridges of Madison County*. The number of the NOMs as adverbial in each work exceeds the combined number of the NOMs in the positions of subject and object. Secondly, GNs were all more used than DNs and ZNs. The percentage of GNs ranges from 47% in *Moment in Peking* to 78% in *The Bridges of Madison County*. The number of GNs exceeds the combined number of DNs and ZNs in almost all the five works (except in *Moment in Peking*). Thirdly, the NOMs were all significantly more used in the narrative than in dialogues. The percentage of NOMs in the narrative ranges from 79% in *Jane Erye* to 95% in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

Although *Tess of the D'urbervilles* enjoys the highest average NOM coverage among the five English novels, it is still much lower than that in Joly's version (1/633 versus 1/337). Therefore, more works published in the same period as Joly's version of *HLM* (1892–93) need to be examined to ascertain

Table 3 Quantitative results of the NOMs used in the five English translations of the four Chinese literary prose works

The NOMs	The Journey to the West (1973–77)	Journey to the West (1982–86)	Camel Xiangzi (1988)	Three Kingdoms (1994)	Fortress Besieged (2003)
As adverbial	62 (85%)	83 (94%)	59 (79%)	58 (70%)	129 (81%)
In the position of subject	6 (8%)	1 (1%)	6 (8%)	7 (8%)	16 (10%)
In the position of object	5 (7%)	4 (5%)	10 (13%)	18 (22%)	14 (9%)
Total number	73	88	75	83	159
GNs/DNs/ZNs	55/10/8 (75/14/11%)	65/16/7 (74/18/8%)	50/10/15 (67/13/20%)	49/25/9 (59/30/11%)	106/25/28 (66/16/18%)
Number of words covered	68,943	65,191	22,544	44,949	52,155
Chapter coverage	10/100 chapters	10/100 chapters	6/24 chapters	10/120 chapters	3/9 chapters
Average NOM coverage	1/944	1/741	1/301	1/542	1/328
Dialogue/narrative	21/52 (29/71%)	32/56 (36/64%)	0/75 (0/100%)	26/57 (31/69%)	24/135 (15/85%)

Table 4 Quantitative results of the NOMs used in the five English literary prose works

The NOM	Jane Erye (1847)	Tess of the D'urbervilles (1891)	Moment in Peking (1939)	Nineteen Eighty-Four (1949)	The Bridges of Madison County (1992)
As adverbial	10 (72%)	28 (67%)	52 (81%)	17 (77%)	20 (87%)
In the position of subject	2 (14%)	1 (2%)	5 (8%)	3 (14%)	3 (13%)
In the position of object	2 (14%)	13 (31%)	7 (11%)	2 (9%)	0 (0%)
Total number	14	42	64	22	23
GNs/DNs/ZNs	7/5/2 (50/36/14%)	22/17/3 (52/40/8%)	30/24/10 (47/38/15%)	14/2/6 (64/9/27%)	18/5/0 (78/22/0%)
Number of words covered	18,970	26,594	60,399	34,419	36,620
Chapter/part coverage	6/38 chapters	1/7 chapters	9 out of 45 chapters	1 out of 3 parts	the whole book
Average (NOM) coverage	1/1,355	1/633	1/944	1/1,565	1/1,592
Dialogue/narrative	3/11 (21/79%)	8/34 (19/81%)	4/60 (7/93%)	1/21 (5/95%)	2/21 (9/91%)

whether there is a (causal) correlation between Joly's use of nominalization in *HLM* translation and the British Victorian Age. Moreover, there seems to be nothing particular about the statistical result of the NOMs in *Moment in Peking*, as its average NOM coverage is within the range of average NOM coverages in the five novels. In view of this, more English works written by Chinese authors need to be examined to reveal their differences from those written by English writers.

9 A comparison of the NOMs in the English translations and original literary prose works

Table 5 shows statistical results of the NOMs used in the eight English translations of Chinese literary prose works and the five English literary prose works. The use of nominalization in both text types shares at least the following three patterns: it was predominantly used as adverbial (rather than in the positions of object and subject), in the form of GN (rather than DN and ZN), and in the narrative (rather than in dialogues).

A major difference between the two text types lies in their average NOM coverages (1/407 versus 1/1,072), which means that the NOMs were significantly more used in the first text type than in the second one. In terms of syntactic functions, the NOMs as adverbial were much more used in the former text type (84 versus 77%), while the NOMs in the positions of object and subject were a little more used in the latter one (15 versus 11%, 8 versus 5%). The percentage difference of the NOMs as adverbial in the two text types is more remarkable than the percentage differences of the NOMs in the positions of subject and object. In terms of NOM category, both GNs and ZNs appeared a little more

Table 5 Quantitative results of the NOMs used in the English translations of the Chinese literary prose works and the English literary prose works

The NOMs	As adverbial	In the position of subject	In the position of object	Total number (percentage)	GNs/DNs/ZNs (percentage)	Average coverage	Dialogue/narrative
In the eight English translations	2,804 (84%)	183 (5%)	357 (11%)	3,344 (100%)	1,881/895/568 (56/27/17%)	1/407	945/2,399 (28/72%)
In the five English novels	127 (77%)	14 (8%)	24 (15%)	165 (100%)	91/53/21 (55/32/13%)	1/1, 072	18/147 (11/89%)

frequently in the former text type (56 versus 55%, 17 versus 13%), while DNs appeared much more frequently in the latter one (32 versus 27%). The percentage difference of the GNs in the two text types is less remarkable than the percentage differences of the DNs and ZNs. Finally, the NOMs in dialogues appeared much more frequently in the first text type (28 versus 11%), while the NOMs in the narrative appeared much more frequently in the second text type (89 versus 72%). Their differences in this regard are remarkable.

10 Conclusion

This article is designed to analyze the use of nominalization in English translations of Chinese literary prose works based on the eight English translations of Chinese novels. It was found that nominalization is predominantly used as adverbial (as opposed to in the positions of object and subject), in the form of gerundive nominalization (as opposed to derived and zero-derived nominalizations), and in the narrative (as opposed to in dialogues). It was also found that nominalization is significantly more used in the English translations of Chinese literary prose works than in the five English literary prose works at large.

This empirical study, to some extent, has enriched and deepened our understanding of English nominalization. It is expected that it will shed some useful light on similar studies of nominalization in English translations of literary prose (and other text types) from other languages than Chinese, so that a more comprehensive knowledge of English nominalization can be achieved.

This study was conducted within the theoretical framework of nominalization and complex condensation of the sentence of the eminent Prague School (both classical and modern), which subsumes some lexical-grammatical concepts in systemic-functional grammar. Even so, this is only one of several theoretical approaches, which can offer equally useful insights to the study of English nominalization in literature and other text types.

Because this study was based on a limited amount of data, the statistical results are not fully representative of the use of nominalization in English translations of Chinese literary prose. In the future, larger amounts of data will be examined so as to make the quantitative results more reliable. Further research on the factors triggering its use in translation will also be conducted through computing logging and think-aloud-protocols.

Funding

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Notes

1 A brief introduction to the five other English translations of famous Chinese novels is as follows. *Journey to the West* or *Xi You Ji*, authored by Wu Cheng'en in the sixteenth century, is a fictionalized description of the mythologized legends around the Tang dynasty Buddhist monk Xuanzang's pilgrimage to India to obtain Buddhist sutras. In terms of its two notable English complete versions, *Journey to the West* (1982–84), translated by W. J. F. Jenner, is more readable without scholarly apparatus, while *The Journey to the West* (1977–83), translated by Anthony Yu, is more scholarly with an extensive introduction and notes.

Camel Xiangzi or Luotuo Xiangzi, authored by Lao She in 1939, is about the life of a fictional Beijing rickshaw man. Its main subject matters include the way in which Xiangzi makes his living pulling a rickshaw, the options he faces and choices he makes, and especially the fundamental issues of whether he should work independently or as a servant to a family and whether he should rent or own a rickshaw. One of its five English versions chosen is *Camel Xiangzi* (1988) translated by Shi Xiaojing.

Romance of the Three Kingdoms or Sanguo Yanyi, written by Luo Guanzhong in the fourteenth century, is a Chinese historical novel based on events in the turbulent years, starting in the year 169 and ending with the reunification of the land in the year 280. One of its greatest achievements lies in the extreme complexity of its stories interwoven with nearly 1,000 dramatic characters in 120 chapters. One of the English versions chosen is *Three Kingdoms* (1994) translated by Moss Roberts.

Fortress Besieged or *Wei Cheng* (1944–46), authored by Qian Zhongshu, is a humorous tale about the middle-class Chinese society in the 1940s. The title derives from a French proverb: Marriage is like a fortress besieged: those who are outside want to get in, and those who are inside want to get out. Its English version by Jeanne Kelly and Nathan Mao is *Fortress Besieged* (2003).

2 The five English novels chosen span a period of about 150 years from the year 1847 to the year 1992. They allow an analysis of the result of the use of nominalization in English literary prose from a diachronic perspective. All of them were chosen because they are famous works. Moreover, the following three works were chosen for additional reasons. *Tess of the D'urbervilles* (1891) was mainly chosen because it was written by an English writer and its publication year is close to that of Joly's version of *HLM*. Its examination may give some hint to the influence of the Victorian Age on the use of nominalization in Joly's version of *HLM*. The historical novel *Moment in Peking* (1939) was chosen mainly because it was written by a famous Chinese–American author Lin Yutang. Its choice may allow a different look at the use of nominalization by Chinese authors in English novels. The literary political fiction *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949) was chosen mainly because according to Hodge and Fowler (1979), nominalization in the fiction was used by the author George Orwell as one of the two syntactic techniques to achieve mystification or doublethink.