

# Grammatical Structure Analysis and Translation Strategies of English Complex Sentences

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**Abstract:** This paper mainly discusses the grammatical features of English complex sentences and their challenges and strategies in the translation process. It aims to improve the language application ability and promote the accuracy and fluency of cross-cultural communication through in-depth analysis of its grammatical structure and translation strategies. This paper makes a detailed classification and grammatical analysis, involving noun clauses, adjective clauses and adverbial clauses. In the process of translation, this paper holds that it is necessary to pay special attention to the key role of grammatical devices such as conjunctions and pronouns in the construction and translation of complex sentences, as well as the influence of logical relations and cultural differences on translation accuracy. It is found that the flexible use of literal translation and free translation, split translation strategy and context-based reorganization translation method can effectively improve the translation quality of complex sentences. Especially when faced with complex sentences with deep logical relations or specific cultural background, these strategies are particularly important. This study enriches the theoretical system of English linguistics and translation studies, and also provides useful guidance for English teaching and translation practice.

## 1. Introduction

As a global language, English plays a vital role in academic exchanges, literary creation and daily communication [1]. In the academic field, complex sentences have become an indispensable part of formal styles such as papers and reports because they can carry rich information and express complex logical relations [2]. They can accurately explain the research hypothesis, experimental results and theoretical derivation, and also show the author's strict logical thinking and profound language skills through the nested sentence structure [3]. In literary creation, the use of complex sentences is more flexible. They can describe the characters' psychology in detail and construct plot turning points, which makes the works rich in levels and profound in meaning [4]. In daily communication, the timely and appropriate use of complex sentences can also make our expression more accurate and powerful, and enhance the persuasiveness and appeal of the language [5].

In view of the wide application of English complex sentences in various fields, it is particularly important to deeply analyze their grammatical structures and explore translation strategies [6]. This can help language learners better understand and use complex sentences, improve their language application ability, reduce misunderstandings in cross-cultural communication and promote the accurate transmission of information [7]. Especially in today's deepening globalization, mastering the translation skills of complex sentences is of inestimable value for eliminating cultural barriers and enhancing international mutual understanding and cooperation [8].

The purpose of this study is to reveal the inherent logical relationship and expression rules of English complex sentences by deeply analyzing their grammatical characteristics and construction mechanism. Through this study, we hope to provide useful reference and enlightenment for English teaching, translation practice and cross-cultural communication.

## 2. Grammatical structure analysis of English complex sentences

### 2.1. Definition and classification of complex sentences

English complex sentences refer to those sentences with relatively complex structures and containing multiple clauses or clauses [9]. They have a complete subject-predicate structure, and through grammatical means such as conjunctions and pronouns, multiple simple sentences or clauses are organically combined to form a clear-cut and logical expression [10]. According to the function and position of clauses in sentences, we can roughly divide complex sentences into three categories: nominal clauses, adjective clauses and adverbial clauses, as shown in Figure 1:

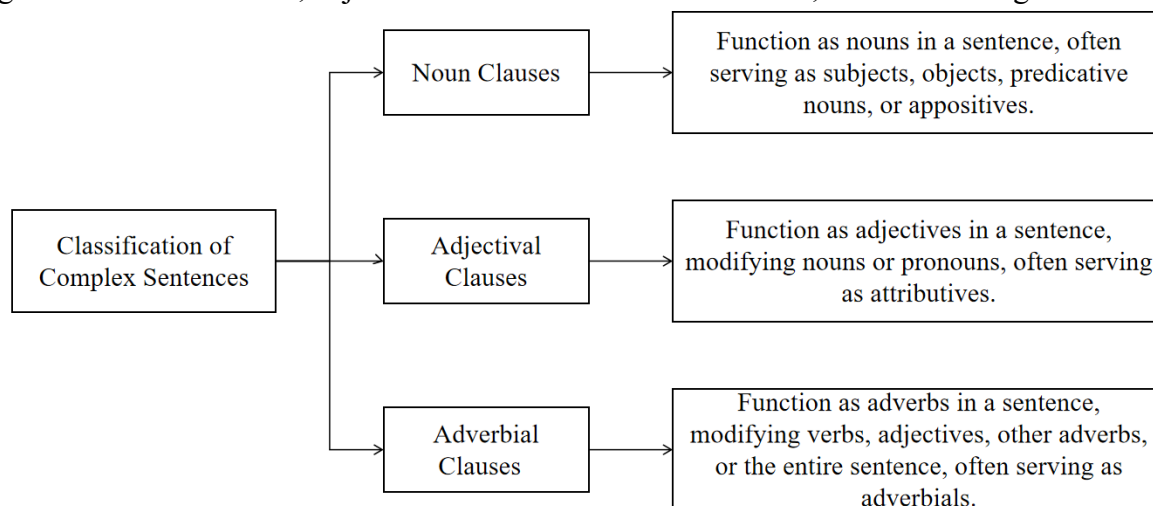


Figure 1 Classification of Complex Sentences

### 2.2. Grammatical components and functions of complex sentences

The grammatical components of complex sentences are rich and varied, including basic components such as subject, predicate and object, as well as modifiers such as attributes, adverbials and complements [11]. In a complex sentence, these components each bear a specific grammatical function, and through their mutual association and cooperation, they jointly construct the complete meaning of the sentence. The subject is the object of sentence statement, the predicate describes the action or state of the subject, and the object is the receiver of the action. Attributive is used to modify nouns to make them more concrete and vivid. Adverbials are used to describe the way, time and place of actions, adding details and colors to sentences. Complement is a component that supplements the subject or object and makes the meaning of the sentence more complete. The flexible use of these grammatical elements in complex sentences enables sentences to express more complex and delicate thoughts and emotions.

### 2.3. The construction mechanism and logical relationship of complex sentences

The construction mechanism of complex sentences mainly depends on the clever use of grammatical means such as conjunctions and pronouns. Connectives such as "that", "whether" and "if" can guide clauses and show their logical relationship with the main clause. Pronouns such as "who", "which" and "what" can replace nouns or noun phrases in the main clause, avoid repetition and enhance the coherence of the sentence. Through these grammatical means, complex sentences can closely link multiple simple sentences or clauses to form an organic whole.

The logical relations in complex sentences are extremely rich and varied. These include causality, conditional relationship, turning relationship, concession relationship and so on. The logical relations in complex sentences are shown in Table 1:

Table 1 Logical Relationships in Complex Sentences

Logical Relationship	Description
Cause and Effect	Indicates a relationship between cause and effect, commonly using conjunctions such as "because", "since", "therefore", "thus", etc.
Condition and Result	Indicates a relationship between a condition and its resulting outcome, often employing conjunctions like "if", "unless", "provided that", etc.
Contrast/Turn	Signifies a contrast or opposition between sentences, frequently using conjunctions such as "but", "however", "nevertheless", etc.
Concession	Indicates that despite a certain situation, the outcome remains the same, typically utilizing conjunctions like "although", "even though", "despite", etc.
Time Sequence	Represents the chronological order of actions, often with conjunctions such as "when", "while", "as soon as", etc.
Spatial Relation	Denotes the location or direction of actions, commonly using conjunctions like "where", "wherever", etc.
Manner	Describes the way or means by which an action is performed, frequently with conjunctions such as "as", "as if", "by", etc.
Purpose	Indicates the intention or goal behind an action, often employing conjunctions like "in order to", "so that", "for", etc.
Comparison	Represents a comparison between two things or situations, typically using conjunctions such as "than", "as...as", "the same as", etc.
Reverse Cause and Effect	Suggests inferring the cause from the effect, commonly using phrases like "due to", "owing to", "because of", etc.

As shown in Table 1, these logical relationships in complex sentences are reflected by the arrangement and combination of clauses and the selection of conjunctions, which makes the sentences more rigorous and logical. When understanding and analyzing complex sentences, we should pay attention to their grammatical components and structural characteristics, and at the same time, we should deeply analyze their internal logical relations, so as to accurately grasp the overall meaning and deep meaning of sentences.

### 3. Translation strategies of English complex sentences

#### 3.1. Translation principles and objectives

In the process of translating English complex sentences, it is very important to follow certain translation principles and set clear translation goals. Accuracy is the core principle of translation, and its importance is self-evident. In the face of complex sentences, translators need to have a high sense of responsibility and keen insight to ensure that the translated content is highly consistent with the original text in terms of semantic transmission, grammatical application and style maintenance. This requires the translator to accurately understand every word and phrase of the original text, to deeply grasp the logical relationship and rhetorical devices of the original text, and strive to accurately reproduce the essence of the original text in the translation. Fluency is another important principle of translation. English complex sentences bring great challenges to translation because of their complicated structures and dense information. On the basis of being faithful to the original text, the translator should flexibly use translation skills to make necessary adjustments and polish the translation, so that it can not only retain the essence of the original text, but also conform to the expression habits of the target language. Only in this way can the translation be read smoothly and naturally, and the target readers can easily understand it.

The ultimate goal of translation is to promote cross-cultural communication. This requires the translator to pay attention to the transformation at the language level in the process of translation and to deeply understand the influence of cultural differences on translation. Translators should strive to make the translation acceptable and understandable to readers in the target cultural background, so as to build a bridge between different cultures and realize real cross-cultural communication. Therefore, in the process of translating English complex sentences, it is the bottom

line and goal that translators must adhere to and pursue to follow the principles of accuracy and fluency and to promote cross-cultural communication.

### 3.2. Specific translation strategies and methods

For the translation of English complex sentences, this paper thinks that various strategies and methods can be adopted to ensure the accuracy and fluency of translation, as shown in Table 2:

Table 2 Strategies and Methods for Translating English Complex Sentences

Strategy/Method	Description
Combination of Literal and Free Translation	Combines literal translation to retain the original structure with free translation to adjust the expression, ensuring the translation is both faithful to the original and conforms to the target language's conventions.
Segmentation Translation	Decomposes complex sentences into simpler sentences or phrases for individual translation, and then recombines them into a clear and understandable translation.
Restructuring Translation	Reorganizes sentence structures based on the original's meaning and logical relationships to align with the target language's grammar and expression habits.

As shown in Table 2:

(1) The combination of literal translation and free translation is a common strategy. Literal translation can retain the structure and form of the original text, and for some complex sentences with specific cultural connotations or rhetorical effects, literal translation can retain the characteristics of the original text to the maximum extent. However, literal translation is not omnipotent, which sometimes leads to blunt or difficult translation. At this time, we need to use free translation to make the translation more in line with the expression habits of the target language by adjusting the word order, replacing words or adding or deleting information.

(2) Complex sentences in English are often interwoven with multiple clauses and complicated modifiers. If translated directly, the translation may be lengthy and confusing to readers. Through split translation, we can skillfully disassemble these complex sentences into several simple and clear sentences or phrases. In this way, each part can be translated separately to ensure the accuracy and fluency of the translation. Finally, these translated parts are organically combined to form a complete translation that is clear and easy to understand. This effectively solves the difficult problems in the translation of complex sentences. Therefore, split translation shows its unique advantages in dealing with complex sentences.

(3) Sometimes the sentence structure of English complex sentences does not conform to the expression habits of the target language, and at this time, reorganization translation is also a strategy worth trying. In this case, the translator can reorganize the sentence structure according to the meaning and logical relationship of the original text to make it more in line with the grammatical rules and expression habits of the target language. This strategy requires translators to have high language literacy and translation skills, and be able to flexibly use various expressions in the target language to make the translation accurate and fluent.

To sum up, the translation of English complex sentences should follow the principles of accuracy, fluency and promotion of cross-cultural communication, and flexibly use strategies and methods such as combining literal translation with free translation, split translation and reorganization translation. In order to ensure the accuracy and fluency of translation and promote the effective cross-cultural communication.

### 4. Conclusions

After an in-depth analysis of the grammatical structure of English complex sentences and a detailed discussion of translation strategies, this study draws a series of valuable conclusions. This paper clarifies the definition and classification of English complex sentences, and reveals the complexity and diversity of their internal structures. By analyzing the grammatical components and functions of complex sentences in detail, this paper further deepens the understanding of the construction mechanism of English sentences. In terms of translation strategies, this paper puts

forward many methods, such as combining literal translation with free translation, splitting translation, restructuring translation and so on. This aims to solve the difficult problems in the translation of complex sentences and improve the accuracy and fluency of the translation. The above conclusions enrich the theoretical system of English linguistics and translation studies and provide useful guidance for English teaching and translation practice.

Based on the conclusion of this study, the following practical suggestions are put forward: for English learners, they should strengthen their study and understanding of English complex sentences, master their grammatical structure and logical relationship, and improve their language use ability. In translation practice, translators should flexibly use the translation strategies and methods put forward in this study and choose the most suitable translation scheme according to the specific situation to ensure the accuracy and fluency of the translation. Translators should also pay attention to cultivating cross-cultural awareness and understanding the language habits and expressions of the target culture in order to avoid translation errors caused by cultural differences. English teachers can also integrate the results of this research into teaching, and help students better master the translation skills of English complex sentences and improve their translation ability through case analysis and practice.

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