

## On Lengthening and Explicitation in the Process of Translating: An Empirical Study Based on Translation Tests of MTI Students

WANG Wei<sup>[a],\*</sup>; ZHOU Weihong<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>[a]</sup> School of Interpreting and Translation, Beijing International Studies University, Beijing, China.

<sup>[b]</sup> Department of College English Education, Beijing City University, Beijing, China.

\*Corresponding author.

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### Abstract

The concept of “universals of translation” was first proposed by Toury (1977). Later, Toury (2004, p.17) argues that he first used the word “universals”, but then he preferred the word “laws” because of the possibility of exception built into it. We believe that lengthening is a major manifestation of explicitation and thus the two aspects are consistent with each other. The current paper plans to seek empirical evidence to the argumentation of “universals/laws” of translation by designing two experiments. Statistical results indicate that there is obvious explicitation in English-Chinese translation, while Chinese-English translation negates the hypothesis of explicitation.

**Key words:** Universals; Laws; Lengthening; Explicitation; Translation

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### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Universals/ Laws of Translation

According to Toury (1977), there might exist a set of “universals of translational behavior.” According to Toury, translated texts (target texts) are usually longer and explicit than source texts (cf. Vinay and Darbelnet, 1958). Toury’s (2004, p.17) changed his choice of words later:

“I did use the word ‘universals’ [...] in my 1976 dissertation, but dropped it right away and refrained from using it ever since [...] As of the early 1980s, the notion I favored was that of ‘laws’ [...] because unlike ‘universals’, this notion has the possibility of *exception* built into it.”

Translations tend to be longer than their source texts (cf. Vinay and Darbelnet, 1995). Blum-Kulka (1986, pp.17-19) insists that “the process of necessarily entails shifts,” and explicitation is believed to be “inherent in the process of translation”.

#### B. Literature Review

Explicitation is defined as a “stylistic translation technique which consists of making explicit in the target language what remains implicit in the source language because it is apparent from either the context or the situation.” (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, p.342; cf. Øverås, 1998 ) Øverås (1998) adopted the term “explicitness” and defined it as “the verbalization of information that the addressee might be able to infer if it were not verbalized,” facilitating the addressee’s understanding and comprehension, and “entails redundancy,” i.e., providing target text readers extra information/ linguistic material than the source language texts.

Toury (1980) claims that there is a general tendency to exaggerate features of the target language in translations. On the other hand, Vanderauwera (1985) traced a tendency towards disambiguation, which implicates redundancy and prolonged length. Then Blum-Kulka (1986) proposed the explicitation hypothesis. Baker’s (1993) study shows that translated versions are more conventional in wordings than non-translated texts. Øverås (1998) drew a conclusion that explicitation is a real characteristic feature of the process of translating. It could be found that the lengthening and explicitation of target texts are in consistency with each other, because translators tend to adopt paraphrasing and explanation in the translating process. Thus the target texts are usually longer and more explicit than the source texts.

Wang's (2003) study has concluded that the average corresponding percentage between English words and Chinese characters in Chinese-English translation is 1000:1330-1410, and the average corresponding percentage between English words and Chinese characters in English-Chinese translation is 1000:1720-1790, which could be transformed into the ratio of mean values of 1:1.33-1.41 (C-E translation) and 1: 1.72-1.79 (E-C translation). Chen's research concludes "translated Chinese in the genres under investigation tends to exhibit a higher level of conjunctive explicitness than both the [source text] and the comparable non-translated Chinese texts." (2004, p.309).

### C. Experiment Design of the Current Study

Previous researches have suggested that redundancy is an important signifier of explicitness. Therefore, the present research designs two experiments of back-translation to measure the lengthen of translated versions and seek the evidence redundancy and explicitation. Therefore, we select one paragraph from the Chinese novel *Chang Hen Ge* by Wang Anyi and its English version (*The Song of Everlasting Sorrow: A Novel of Shanghai*, 2008) translated by Michael Berry and Susan Chan Egan. The source text (ST) is composed by 189 Chinese characters, and the target text (TT) consists of 167 words. Similarly, the present study chooses a paragraph from William Somerset Maugham's "The Song of the River" and its Chinese version (translated by Isabella Chu at Columbia

University. The ST consists of 131 English words, and the TT has 189 Chinese characters.

In order to make sure the quality of back-translated versions, the 95 subjects are freshman MTI students at the School of Interpreting and Translation of Beijing International Studies University. They are asked to translate the English version into Chinese within 45 minutes without any notification that the text is in fact a translated version. Likewise, the Chinese version of "The Song of the River" was translated into English within 45 minutes.

## 1. TRAINING DATA COLLECTION

Altogether 95 students (Chinese: 91, Mongolian: 1, Hungarian: 1, Russian: 1, Mexican: 1) took part in the experiment on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018. They are all first-year MTI students with professional translation skills and experience. Without being told the real purpose of the experiment, they simply treated the two versions as a natural non-translated texts and finished each translation work within 45 minutes. Their versions were retrieved and then corrected by a bilingual translation teacher at L'Université Laval whose first language is English as well as Chinese. The parameters include character/word numbers of the back-translations as well as error numbers, which are assumed to test the "universals/laws" in translating processes. The STs, TTs and students' back-translation samples are presented in Table 1 & 2.

**Table 1**  
**Comparison between the source text, target text and 3 back translations (*The Song of Everlasting Sorrow: A Novel of Shanghai*)**

Parameters	Source text by Wang	Target text by Michael Berry and Susan Chan Egan	Back translation by F Chen	Back translation by YH Zhang	Back translation by QY Huang
Length	189 Chinese characters	167 English words	133 Chinese characters	230 Chinese characters	368 Chinese characters
Error(s)	0	0	3	0	3
Texts	你有没有看见过卸去一面墙的房子，所有的房间都裸着，人都走了，那房间成了一行行的空格子。这些空格子看上去是那么小，那么简陋，几乎不相信能容纳一个昼夜起居。它们看上去还是那么单薄，一弯楼梯就像老鼠房子的楼梯，就好像能起一脚踩的样子。看那一面面后窗，窗外边是蓝天，有窗没窗都一个样。门也是可有可无，显得都有些无聊。可就是这些木头和砖垒起的小方格里，有着我们的好日子，和坏日子。	Have you ever seen a building with one of its walls torn down, leaving all of the rooms inside naked and exposed? The people are gone, and the rooms they once lived in are reduced to nothing but empty boxes. It is difficult to imagine the kinds of scenes that must once have played out in those empty boxes, places that were once the stage for stories of life and death. Those empty boxes appear so small, so crude; it is almost impossible to imagine someone living here even for a day. They look so flimsy—the staircase looks like it was built for a mouse and would collapse under a human foot-step. Take a look at the blue sky outside the rear window, there might just as well be no window. The doors, too, appear pointless; they look silly being there. Yet these are precisely the kinds of wooden and brick boxes within which we live our lives, playing out the good days and the bad.	你见过倒了一面墙的大楼吗？楼里的余空，一览无余，在空荡荡的房间里去楼上去楼下去，死别。房子又是如何破下去的？薄得像老鼠的，能后窗看蓝天，还是别看了。这砖木结构房子里，我们的经历着生活的起起落落。	你是否见过塌了一面墙，徒留里屋赫然暴露在外？曾经住在这座房子里的人搬走了，这些故居成了空巢，只不过是些空盒子罢了。看着大舞台，却很难在脑海中重现过去种种情景。这些空盒子看起来那么窄小、朴素，几乎让人相信这里曾经有人居住过，哪怕只有非常松动，给老鼠搭建的，上去就会垮塌。发现窗户还不如门的存在也似乎没什么意义，安装得非常别扭。然而恰恰就是这样的木头砖块房子里，我们生活着，体验着幸福与悲伤。	你见过垮塌的大楼吗？大楼的一侧垮塌，内部的房间结构暴露在人们眼中。这里曾有人居住，但他们现在已经不在了，这些曾经记录他们生活的房间，空空荡荡，就像是一个个集装箱。很难想象，他们生活的一幕幕就诞生在这样狭窄的房间里，那些人就是在这这样的房子里，走完了他们漫长的一生。眼前像集装箱一样的房间，局促，简陋，人们不禁觉得，让这儿能住人，就算只住一天，也是异想天开。原因无他，这整栋楼，都透着偷工减料、腐渣工程的气息，破旧不堪的楼梯，就像只能允许耗子那般轻巧的生物通行似的，人要是想上楼梯，非得一脚踩塌了不可。能看到房间后面墙上的一扇窗户，外面天空湛蓝，可是这个位置，宁愿这儿只是一面没有窗户的墙。每一扇门都不如不要，看上去不伦不类。这样的房间，这样劣质的木头与拙劣的砖块搭建的房间，我们就是在这里，度过自己的每一天，也是在这里，经历着人生的浮沉。

**Table 2**  
**Comparison between the source text, target text and 3 back translations (“The Song of the River”)**

Parameters	Source text by W. Somerset Maugham	Target text by Isabella Chu	Back translation by J Li	Back translation by DY Liu	Back translation by CL Tang
Length	131 English words	189 Chinese characters	110 English words	142 English words	368 Chinese characters
Error(s)	0	0	5	0	3
Texts	<p>You hear it all along the river. You hear it, loud and strong, from the rowers as they urge the junk with its high stern, the mast lashed alongside, down the swift running stream. You hear it from the trackers, a more breathless chant, as they pull desperately against the current, half a dozen of them perhaps if they are taking up a wupan, a couple of hundred if they are hauling a splendid junk, its square sail set, over a rapid. On the junk, a man stands amidships beating a drum incessantly to guide their efforts, and they pull with all their strength, like men possessed, bent double; and sometimes in the extremity of their travail they crawl on the ground, on all fours, like the beasts of the field.</p>	<p>歌声，江岸上下都能听见。那是船夫的歌，高亢有力。他们奋力划桨，船尾高高翘起，桅杆系于船舷，沿激流而下。纤夫的歌则是比较急促的号子，他们使出全力，拉纤逆流而上。若是拉五板船，五六人便足以；而拉大帆船过急滩，非得两百来人才行。一人立于大船中央，击鼓不息，指挥纤夫发力。于是他们便使出全部气力，如同着了魔一般，身体折成两半。有时候力气用到了极限，便手脚并用，匍匐前行，好像田里的牲口。</p>	<p>Songs can be heard along the river. The powerful ones are sung by boatmen. They strive to paddle to follow the torrent, with the stern held high and the mast tied. The rapid ones are by trackers who pull against the current with all their strength. Several men are enough for a small junk, but over two hundred trackers are needed for a big one. Standing in the middle of it, a commander is hitting a drum. Hearing the drumbeats, they are in enchantment, bending down to pull the big junk. They are sometimes in utter exhaustion, then they will crawl forward, like cattle pulling a plowshare in the field.</p>	<p>The songs can be heard from both river banks. It is the songs sung by the boatmen that are high-pitched and powerful. The boatmen strive to paddle with the stern highly lifted and the mast fasten with the boats, to sail down the strong current. The songs sung by boat trackers are brief and clear work ones. The trackers do their best to tow the boats against the current. We need five to six people to tow the small boats while we need about two hundred to tow the sailboats crossing the rapids. The one standing in the central of the sailboats continues to beat the drum and guide the trackers. Therefore, they tow the boats crazily with their bodies bent deeply. Sometimes, when they don't have enough energy, they will crawl with hands and feet as the draft animals.</p>	<p>The reasoning and powerful sing getting through all the way from the river to the bank comes from the boatman, who are striving to row the high-tailed boat which is running upon a download wave. And on the rail of the boat, tied up a mast. While these boat-trackers are singing in a rather rapid beat for they are making their effort to most extent to move the boat forward against the wave. If it's a “four-board boat” they are pulling, five to six hands will be enough while if it's a “boat with huge sail”, they wouldn't make it work unless there are 2 hundreds and more at hands. With one man standing right in the center of the boat and drumming constantly, those trackers, hauntedly alike, could follow his lead and exert all their effort out, which makes it look like their bodies are being torn apart right in the middle. There are also these times when they try so hard that all their four limbs are used, like a livestock.</p>

Specific errors in the back-translated versions are italicized in the two tables presented above. Table 1 & 2 could be further simplified into the following statistical

table by omitting the corresponding texts. The statistical results of the experiment will be presented in the next section.

**Table 3**  
**Length comparison between the STs and TTs**

Parameters	Source text by Wang	Target text by Michael Berry and Susan Chan Egan	Back translation by F Chen	Back translation by YH Zhang	Back translation by QY Huang
Length	189 Chinese characters	167 English words	133 Chinese characters	230 Chinese characters	368 Chinese characters
Error(s)	0	0	3	0	3
Parameters	Source text by W. Somerset Maugham	Target text by Isabella Chu	Back translation by J Li	Back translation by DY Liu	Back translation by CL Tang
Length	131 English words	189 Chinese characters	110 English words	142 English words	368 Chinese characters
Error(s)	0	0	5	0	3

## 2. STATISTICAL RESULTS

Case summaries of the two experiments are presented

in Table 4, demonstrating the exact primitive data of EC Numbers, EC Errors, CE Numbers, and CE Errors, as well as the names of the 95 testees in total.

**Table 4**  
**Case summaries**

Name	ECNumbers	ECErrors	CENumbers	CEErrors
AL Zhang	183.00	2.00	145.00	1.00
Total	1	1	1	1
BY Li	175.00	5.00	148.00	2.00
Total	1	1	1	1
C Li	260.00	.00	156.00	3.00
Total	1	1	1	1
CC Fan	237.00	1.00	121.00	3.00
Total	1	1	1	1
CH Li	213.00	2.00	114.00	2.00
Total	1	1	1	1
CL Tang	205.00	4.00	184.00	3.00
Total	1	1	1	1

Continued

Name		ECNumbers	ECErrors	CENumbers	CEErrors		
CW Li	Total	1	N	216.00	2.00	156.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
D Feng	Total	1	N	226.00	4.00	173.00	3.00
		1		1	1	1	1
DF Pan	Total	1	N	246.00	.00	142.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
DJ Sun	Total	1	N	265.00	1.00	144.00	4.00
		1		1	1	1	1
DY Liu	Total	1	N	269.00	1.00	142.00	.00
		1		1	1	1	1
F Chen	Total	1	N	133.00	3.00	114.00	3.00
		1		1	1	1	1
F Zhou	Total	1	N	222.00	1.00	136.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
FS Niu	Total	1	N	260.00	1.00	174.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
GZ Yuan	Total	1	N	267.00	1.00	133.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
J Chen	Total	1	N	212.00	2.00	137.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
J Hei	Total	1	N	285.00	2.00	145.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
J Li	Total	1	N	184.00	5.00	110.00	5.00
		1		1	1	1	1
J Liu	Total	1	N	208.00	4.00	130.00	3.00
		1		1	1	1	1
J Wang	Total	1	N	214.00	1.00	141.00	4.00
		1		1	1	1	1
JA Liu	Total	1	N	203.00	4.00	127.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
JH Li	Total	1	N	144.00	3.00	166.00	4.00
		1		1	1	1	1
JH Wang	Total	1	N	284.00	1.00	131.00	3.00
		1		1	1	1	1
JJ Li	Total	1	N	243.00	1.00	137.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
JP Yu	Total	1	N	255.00	1.00	138.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
JW Ju	Total	1	N	246.00	1.00	143.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
JW Ma	Total	1	N	206.00	2.00	124.00	4.00
		1		1	1	1	1
JW Xiao	Total	1	N	244.00	1.00	140.00	.00
		1		1	1	1	1
JX Ma	Total	1	N	236.00	1.00	146.00	4.00
		1		1	1	1	1
JX Zhu	Total	1	N	231.00	1.00	127.00	4.00
		1		1	1	1	1
JY Li	Total	1	N	280.00	1.00	126.00	4.00
		1		1	1	1	1
KL Deng	Total	1	N	231.00	2.00	143.00	3.00
		1		1	1	1	1
KX Wang	Total	1	N	206.00	1.00	131.00	6.00
		1		1	1	1	1
KY Jiang	Total	1	N	173.00	3.00	121.00	3.00
		1		1	1	1	1
LS Xue	Total	1	N	238.00	1.00	152.00	3.00
		1		1	1	1	1
LT Hu	Total	1	N	223.00	2.00	124.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
M Lin	Total	1	N	221.00	1.00	132.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
M Zhang	Total	1	N	232.00	2.00	137.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
Madelein	Total	1	N	243.00	8.00	118.00	4.00
		1		1	1	1	1
MY Liu	Total	1	N	262.00	1.00	142.00	3.00
		1		1	1	1	1
N Shao	Total	1	N	222.00	1.00	166.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
N Zheng	Total	1	N	171.00	3.00	141.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
P Yao	Total	1	N	260.00	.00	137.00	3.00
		1		1	1	1	1

Continued

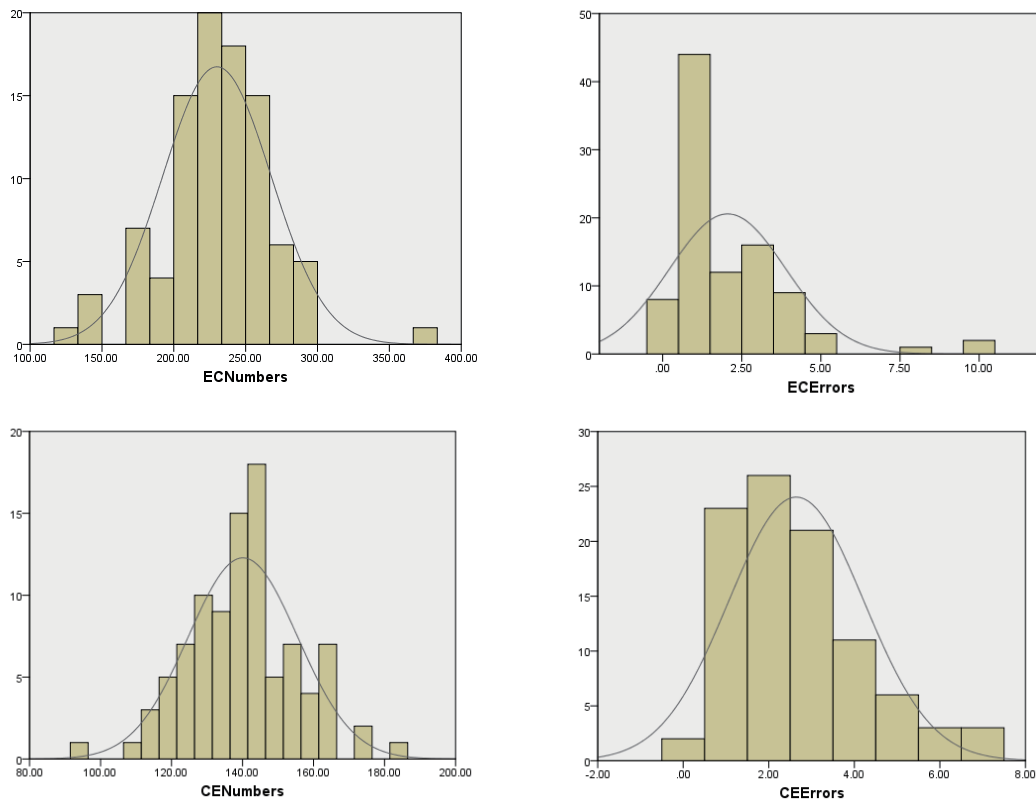
Name		ECNumbers	ECErrors	CENumbers	CEErrors		
PY Geng	Total	1	N	207.00	2.00	131.00	3.00
		1		1	1	1	1
Q Jing	Total	1	N	210.00	4.00	140.00	4.00
		1		1	1	1	1
Q Yu	Total	1	N	294.00	1.00	130.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
Q Zhang	Total	1	N	219.00	3.00	150.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
QX Huang	Total	1	N	280.00	1.00	152.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
QY Huang	Total	1	N	368.00	3.00	163.00	3.00
		1		1	1	1	1
Reka	Total	1	N	171.00	10.00	124.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
S Xu	Total	1	N	237.00	.00	137.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
SJ Hu	Total	1	N	239.00	1.00	138.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
SS Yang	Total	1	N	207.00	3.00	132.00	3.00
		1		1	1	1	1
SZ Zhang	Total	1	N	187.00	3.00	117.00	5.00
		1		1	1	1	1
Tuya	Total	1	N	220.00	10.00	144.00	5.00
		1		1	1	1	1
Vera	Total	1	N	170.00	4.00	114.00	3.00
		1		1	1	1	1
WF Wu	Total	1	N	143.00	4.00	156.00	7.00
		1		1	1	1	1
WL Li	Total	1	N	264.00	1.00	143.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
WS Zhang	Total	1	N	237.00	1.00	147.00	7.00
		1		1	1	1	1
WW Zheng	Total	1	N	265.00	1.00	161.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
X Chen	Total	1	N	236.00	3.00	137.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
X Li	Total	1	N	219.00	3.00	148.00	3.00
		1		1	1	1	1
X Pan	Total	1	N	135.00	5.00	94.00	4.00
		1		1	1	1	1
X Qiao	Total	1	N	266.00	.00	155.00	6.00
		1		1	1	1	1
X Zhang	Total	1	N	219.00	1.00	125.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
X Zhao	Total	1	N	218.00	2.00	135.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
XC Yu	Total	2	N	238.00	1.00	144.00	1.00
		2		2	2	2	2
XH Zhao	Total	1	N	168.00	3.00	135.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
XJ Han	Total	1	N	290.00	1.00	123.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
XN Sun	Total	1	N	243.00	1.00	128.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
XR Hu	Total	1	N	223.00	1.00	134.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
XR Li	Total	1	N	231.00	1.00	117.00	6.00
		1		1	1	1	1
XR Luo	Total	1	N	232.00	1.00	158.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
XT Gao	Total	1	N	230.00	1.00	141.00	5.00
		1		1	1	1	1
Y Li	Total	1	N	214.00	2.00	162.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
Y Sun	Total	1	N	228.00	1.00	137.00	2.00
		1		1	1	1	1
Y Wang	Total	1	N	258.00	1.00	143.00	5.00
		1		1	1	1	1
Y Zou	Total	1	N	251.00	1.00	149.00	1.00
		1		1	1	1	1
YC Shen	Total	1	N	227.00	1.00	139.00	3.00
		1		1	1	1	1

Continued

				ECNumbers	ECErrors	CENumbers	CEErrors
YF Shao	Total	1	N	236.00	1.00	135.00	3.00
				1	1	1	1
YH Zhang	Total	1	N	230.00	.00	144.00	1.00
				1	1	1	1
YJ Tian	Total	1	N	257.00	.00	164.00	1.00
				1	1	1	1
YL Di	Total	1	N	200.00	3.00	129.00	7.00
				1	1	1	1
YL Mo	Total	1	N	193.00	3.00	143.00	2.00
				1	1	1	1
YM Ruan	Total	1	N	211.00	3.00	159.00	1.00
				1	1	1	1
YQ Ren	Total	1	N	257.00	3.00	146.00	4.00
				1	1	1	1
YQ Zhang	Total	1	N	241.00	3.00	135.00	1.00
				1	1	1	1
YW Ma	Total	1	N	245.00	1.00	143.00	2.00
				1	1	1	1
YW Zhao	Total	1	N	209.00	4.00	125.00	2.00
				1	1	1	1
Z Shi	Total	1	N	280.00	4.00	164.00	3.00
				1	1	1	1
ZH Gong	Total	1	N	269.00	1.00	157.00	3.00
				1	1	1	1
ZH Shi	Total	1	N	265.00	1.00	164.00	2.00
				1	1	1	1
ZH Xiao	Total	1	N	252.00	1.00	153.00	1.00
				1	1	1	1
ZJ Zhang	Total	1	N	288.00	.00	128.00	5.00
				1	1	1	1
Total		N		95	95	95	95

Table 4 could be further transformed into the following histogram figures, indicating the respective distribution of the four major parameters, i.e., E-C translation numbers (ECNumbers for abbreviation), E-C translation errors

(ECErrors, C-E translation numbers (CENumbers), and C-E translation errors (CEErrors), which are generally close to normal distribution, except the chart of E-C errors.



**Figure 1**  
Histograms (ECNumbers, ECErrors, CENumbers, CEErrors )



Table 5 indicates the mean values of ECNumbers (229.9895≈230), ECErrors (2.0526), CENumbers (140.1053≈140), and CEErrors (2.6421), and their

respective std. deviation values (37.71886, 1.84142, 15.42620, and 1.57720).

**Table 5**  
**Paired samples statistics**

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	ECNumbers	229.9895	95	37.71886	3.86987
	ECErrors	2.0526	95	1.84142	.18893
Pair 2	CENumbers	140.1053	95	15.42620	1.58269
	CEErrors	2.6421	95	1.57720	.16182

Based on Wang's (2003) assertion (the ratio of mean values of 1:1.33-1.41 (C-E translation) and 1: 1.72-1.79 (E-C translation)) and the data (mean values of ECNumbers and CENumbers) of Table 5, we could

further transform Table 3 into a simplified table (Table 6), implicating the length comparison of source texts (ST), target texts (TT), back translations (BT), and the predicted words/characters based on Wang's (2003) model.

**Table 6**  
**Length comparison between STs, TTs, and BTs (mean values)**

ST1 (Chinese)	Predictions based on Wang's (2003) model	TT1 (English)	Predictions based on Wang's (2003) model	BT1 (Chinese)
189 characters	251.37 - 266.49 words	167 words	287.24 - 298.93 characters	230 characters
ST2 (English)	Predictions based on Wang's (2003) model	TT2 (Chinese)	Predictions based on Wang's (2003) model	BT2 (English)
131 words	174.23 - 184.71 characters	189 characters	325.08 - 338.31 words	140 words

Table 6 demonstrates that the length of TT1 is shorter than ST1, while TT2 is longer than ST2, implying explicitation in E-C translation. On the aspect of back translation, BT1 is longer than TT1, which is in concord with explicitation hypothesis, while BT2 is shorter than TT2, negating the hypothesis. Compared with the length

of ST1 and ST2, the length of BT1 and BT2 is longer, which obviously makes the explicitation hypothesis more convincing. While the length data of TT1, BT1, TT2, and BT2 are all in contradiction of the predicted numbers based on Wang's (2003) model.

**Table 7**  
**Correlations**

		ECNumbers	ECErrors	CENumbers	CEErrors
ECNumbers	Pearson Correlation	1	-.458**	.296**	-.151
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.004	.145
	N	95	95	95	95
ECErrors	Pearson Correlation	-.458**	1	-.174	.193
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.092	.060
	N	95	95	95	95
CENumbers	Pearson Correlation	.296**	-.174	1	-.149
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.004	.092		.149
	N	95	95	95	95
CEErrors	Pearson Correlation	-.151	.193	-.149	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.145	.060	.149	
	N	95	95	95	95

Pearson Correlations of each parameter are demonstrated in Table 7 presented above, displaying a strong negative correlation which exists between ECNumbers and ECErrors (P = -.458, Sig. = .000), implicating that the prolonged translated texts tend to make less mistakes in the process of English-Chinese translation. In other words, necessary extensions/implication are quite necessary to guarantee the quality of translated versions. As for the translating process of Chinese-English translation, the Pearson Correlation (-.149) proves a relatively weak negative correlation

existing between CENumbers and CEErrors, suggesting that the enhancing effect of extended target texts towards the quality of Chinese-English translation is less obvious than English-Chinese translation.

### 3. MAJOR FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Major findings derived from statistical processing include:

- 1) The distribution of the parameter of ECErrors is little bit abnormal (in which the number of "1" takes an extraordinary portion), but the rest three parameters are almost close to normal distribution;

2) The mean values of ECNumbers, ECErrors, CENumbers, and CEErrors are 230, 2.1, 140 and 2.6, implicating lengthening and explicitation. It also reflects that the testees made more mistakes in Chinese-English translation (Mean Value  $\approx$  2.6) than in English-Chinese translation (Mean Value  $\approx$  2.1);

3) Paired samples statistics provide the data of std. error mean (ECNumbers = 3.86987, ECErrors = 0.18893, CENumbers = 1.58269, and CEErrors = 0.16182), suggesting that the 95 MTI students' English-Chinese translation competence differences are more obvious than their Chinese-English translation competence differences;

4) TT1 is shorter than ST1, and fails to prove the applicability of Wang's (2003) model, while BT1 is longer than TT1, although it does not confirm Wang's (2003) model. Compared with ST1 (189 characters), BT1 (230 characters) is significantly prolonged in length, demonstrating that explicitation exists in the translating process. Compared with ST2 (131 words), TT2 (189 characters) is much longer, and exceeds the predicted range based on Wang's (2003) model. However, BT1 (140 words) is much shorter than TT1 (189 characters) and has gigantic difference with Wang's (2003) models (325.08 - 338.31). But compared with ST2 (131 words), BT2 (140 words) is also prolonged in length, re-confirming explicitation in the translating process. Data presented in Table 6 indicates that lengthening and explicitation in Chinese-English translation have no statistical evidence and foundation in the current experiment. While we do find that lengthening and explicitation exist in English-Chinese translation. These two contradictory results also proves the validity of Baumgarten et al.'s (2008, p.198f) conclusion – "explicitation [...] is clearly not a universal phenomenon. Sometimes it occurs, sometimes it does not." It seems that explicitation is much more like a tendency than a universal phenomenon or a law;

5) Table 7 reveals that there is a significant negative correlation ( $P = -.458$ ,  $\text{Sig.} = .000$ ) between the parameters of ECNumbers and ECErrors, implying that lengthening and explicitation in English-Chinese translating process is obviously necessary in order to decrease errors and guarantee the translation quality, which is also compatible with the findings mentioned above. Unlike the English-Chinese translation, the Pearson Correlation ( $-.149$ ) between CENumbers and CEErrors shows that there is a weak negative correlation between the parameters of CENumbers and CEErrors. Likewise, the result also confirms that there is no obvious lengthening and explicitation in the process of Chinese-English translation, which supports Baumgarten et al.'s (2008, p.198f) argumentation too.

## CONCLUSION

By analyzing the statistical data obtained in the experiments, the present research finds that lengthening and explicitation is a normal phenomenon for English-Chinese translation, which also improves translation quality to some extent. On the contrary, it seems that there is no lengthening and explicitation in Chinese-English translation and Wang's (2003) model of number predication is not valid for the current study. Therefore, these findings could explain the attitude shift of Toury ("universals", 1977; "laws", 2004) because of too many exceptions in real translating process. So we suggest that explicitation could be regarded as a kind of tendency rather than universal or law of translation. Further research needs to be based on large-scale database and parallel corpora.

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