

# Contrastive connectors in English and Chinese: A case study of *however* in two translation corpora<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** This comparative study of *however* and its Chinese counterparts in two translation corpora (the *HLM* parallel corpus, and the *Babel* English-Chinese Parallel Corpus) reveals that the Chinese contrastive relations tend to be expressed implicitly (cf. Wang and Zheng 2004) and Chinese contrastive connectors are generally used in sentence initial position, whereas the English contrastive relations tend to be expressed explicitly and the positions of some of the English connectors can vary. The second initial positions of *however* are especially common, in which it serves a double function (Altenberg 2006). This remarkable difference should be highlighted and given due attention in the teaching, learning and translation of both languages

**Keywords:** usage-based comparative study of contrastive connectors, contrastive connectors in English and Chinese, corpus-based study of contrastive markers, *however* study

## Part 1 *However* in the C/E translation corpus HLM

### 1.1 Research objective and sample description

The purpose of this parallel corpus based translation comparison is to examine the usage of contrastive connectors in Chinese fiction and its English translation—as exemplified by the concessive connector *however* in Hong ‘ Lou ‘ Meng ` . Specifically I will compare *however* (and related contrastive connectors) and its Chinese counterparts (overt or implied) in regard to the following three aspects (and explore the possible reasons):

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<sup>1</sup> This paper is part of the pilot study of my research on contrastive and concessive connectors in English and Chinese, which is supported by the funding of University of Auckland, NZ, and the partial funding of the Social Science Foundation of Beijing University of Posts and Telecom. Beijing, China. I am grateful to Professors Michael Barlow and Jim Miller, whose supervision and advice are highly appreciated. I also want to thank Hong, Huaqing for allowing

- Coverage: what contrastive Chinese connectors are translated into *however* and related English connectors
- Feature: what characteristics the contrastive connectors in these two languages have
- Position: where in the sentence these connectors are used

I retrieved all the aligned samples containing *however* and its Chinese counterparts from the free on line HLM Parallel Corpus (<http://score.crpp.nie.edu.sg/hlm/index.htm>), which consists of 红楼梦 (Hong ' Lou ' Meng ` ) in Chinese and two complete English translation versions of it. HLM is a vivid Chinese novel by Cao, Xueqin, widely acknowledged as the “zenith of Chinese classical fiction”, written in Vernacular Chinese and Beijing Mandarin dialect which later became the standard written and spoken Chinese ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dream\\_of\\_the\\_Red\\_Chamber](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dream_of_the_Red_Chamber)). One of the two English translations of it is by David Hawkes and John Minford, entitled *The Story of the Stone*, another is by Gladys Yang and Yang Hsien-yi, entitled *A Dream of Red Mansions*. Both versions are used for the comparison of *however* and its Chinese counterparts, as both translators are highly professional in both languages. (The Hawkes translation seems more accurate and literal, while the Yangs translation more explanatory and free in expression.)

20 complete pairs of aligned text segments containing *however* are retrieved from the HLM Parallel Corpus, after omitting 9 repetitions or wrong matches and two incomplete matches. This pilot study will focus on these 20 pairs of translation alignment samples. Each pair consists of one Chinese original and two versions of English translation.

## 1.2 Result analysis and discussion

The analysis result is summarized and presented in three tables below and are discussed one by one.

Table 1 is further divided into 4 sub-tables to show the different types of connectors found. The

Chinese words of first appearance are accompanied with pronunciation to facilitate reading.

Examples are occasionally provided and briefly analyzed in discussion to help illustrate the point.

Contrastive and concessive connectors in these 20 alignments are listed in Table 1 below. This table shows that in the 20 Chinese originals and 40 translations of HLM, most of the Chinese contrastive connectors, implied or overt, are translated into *however* (22 cases), some into *but* (7 cases), some into other connectors (5 cases), and some into 0 (6 cases), i.e., expressed by other means. Further observation reveals that 18 cases of the Chinese original are translated into *however* etc. to signal concession at discourse level (summarized in sub-tables 1, 2 and 3), and two cases to signal concession at sentence level, which will be discussed separately.

**Table 1. Chinese contrastive connectors and English translations in 20 aligned samples of HLM**

sub-table 1

No.	HLM in Chinese	Position in sentence	Hawkes translation	Position in sentence	Yangs translation	Position in sentence
5	0 (卻que `)誰知shui ´ z hi	Sentence initial(SI)	However	SI	0	
14	0(卻)誰知	SI	however	After initial	But	SI

				subject		
12	0 (卻)只管 zhi <sup>ˇ</sup> guan <sup>ˇ</sup>	After initial subject	however	After initial subject	0	
24	0 (卻)只 zhi <sup>ˇ</sup>	SI	however	After initial adverbial	however	After initial adverbial
7	0 (卻)只可惜 zhi <sup>ˇ</sup> ke <sup>ˇ</sup> xi <sup>ˇ</sup>	SI	However	After main clause	although	SI
10	0 (卻)無奈 wu <sup>´</sup> nai <sup>ˋ</sup>	SI	but	SI	however	After main clause
30	0 (卻)因 yin	Clause initial	And, as	SI	however	After initial adv. clause

Sub-table 2

27	0 (不过, 可是 ke <sup>ˇ</sup> shi <sup>ˋ</sup> )	SI	However	SI	However	SI
11	0(不过可是)	SI	but	SI	however	After main clause
9	0 (可,不过)	SI	but	SI	However	SI
13	0 (可,不过)	SI	However	SI	But	SI
17	0 (不过)	SI	however	SI	0	
19	0(可,不过)	SI	but	SI	However	After initial adv. clause
18	0(可)	SI	However	SI	But	SI

Sub-table 3

8	到底dao ` d iˇ	After initial adverbial	however	After initial adverbial	0	
1	卻	Clause initial	as a matter of fact	After subject+be.	however	After subject+be.
4	卻	Clause initial	Of course	SI	However	SI
6	雖sui ˇ ...卻	Clause Initial	Though... nevertheless	Clause initial	however	After subject

Sub-table 4

16	任憑是什麼好的ren ` ping ˇ shi ` she n ˇ mo ` haoˇde	Clause initial	however good they are	Clause initial	0	
31	人來客往ren ˇ lai ˇ ke ` wangˇ	Second clause initial	0		however many guests	Clause initial

One remarkable feature in these 18 cases, as the first 3 sub-tables indicate, is that the majority of the original Chinese counterparts of *however* (or other contrastive connectors such as *but*) are **zero**: there are simply no contrastive or concessive Chinese connectors in the corresponding Chinese text at all. In stead, in most of the cases, such Chinese connectors are **implied**. Out of the 18 cases there are 14 such zero or implied Chinese connectors, totalling **78%**. These zero Chinese counterparts for the English *however* (and other contrastive connectors) can be divided into two types. One type consists of 7 cases with an initial implied 卻 (que ` , meaning *but*, *however*), and another type consists of 7 cases with an initial implied 不过 (bu guo ` , meaning *nevertheless*) or 可是 (keˇshi ` , meaning *but*, *however*) or 可 (keˇ , meaning *but* ), all of them contrastive or

concessive Chinese connectors. The ratio between these two types is half and half. So in most cases the implied Chinese connectors for *however* are 卻 (que `), 不过 (bu guo `), or 可是 (ke`shi `).

Interestingly, in the first group of 7 zero Chinese connectors (sub table1) with an implied initial 卻 (que `), 6 of these connectors are immediately followed by a Chinese word or phrase, made up of one to two characters, which indicate some sense of contrast or concession; the seventh is followed by a causal linker. These words seem to have made it unnecessary to use any overt contrastive or concessive Chinese connectors before them. Here is any example (alignment item 5):

誰 知 自 娶 了 他 令 夫 人 之 後,  
 shui ` zhi zi ` qu`le ta ling ` fu ren zhi hou ` ,  
 倒 上 下 無 一 人 不 稱 頌 他 夫 人 的,  
 5 002 Cao dao ` shang ` xia ` wu ` Yi ren ` bu cheng song ` ta fu ren de,  
 璉 爺 倒 退 了 一 射 之 地。  
 lian ` yie dao ` tui ` le yi she ` Zhi di `

002 #<sup>1</sup> **However**, ever since he married this young lady I mentioned , everyone high and  
 Hawkes low has joined in praising her , and he has been put into the shade rather .

002 #<sup>1</sup> Since his marriage he 's been thrown into the shade by his wife , who is praised by

Yangs everybody high and low .

In the Chinese part of this aligned pair, the initial 誰知(shuí zhī) means “Who knows” or “Who expects that”, which implies unexpectedness. It renders 卻 (què, meaning *but, however*) before it unnecessary. If the contrastive 卻 (què) is used before 誰知 (shuí zhī), they together still mean the same thing with slightly increased emphasis on unexpectedness, and the Chinese sentence is still correct. Without it, the sentence is natural. Therefore this implied Chinese connector 卻 (què) before 誰知(shuí zhī) is optional. It is also optional in the other 6 cases before 只管 (zhǐ guǎn), which implies continuation against expectation, 只(zhǐ), which means *only, simply*, 無奈 (wú nài), which implies helplessness and concession, and 因(yīn), which means *because*. Most of these Chinese words that immediately follow the optional 卻 (què) indicate denial of expectation and helpless concession, which must be used and cannot be replaced by 卻 (què). When these words are translated into English, in most cases their implied concession, denial of expectation or helplessness is conveyed by the overt concessive English connector *however* (and in some cases by *but*).

In the second group of 7 zero Chinese connectors (sub-table 2) with an implied concessive Chinese connector 不过 (bù guò), or 可是(kě shì) or 可(kě), there are no other overt Chinese words in the text to show contrast or concession. The contrast or concession demonstrated by *however* or *but* in the English translation seems to be based on the overall meaning and logical relation of the Chinese text. Here is an example:

今兒你既老遠的來了,又是頭一次見

Jin er niǐ jì lǎo yuǎn de lái le, yòu shì tóu yì cì jiàn

13 006 Cao

我張口,怎好叫你空回去呢。

wǒ zhāng kǒu, zěn hǎo jiào nǐ kōng huí qù ne

006

Hawkes

#<sup>1</sup> **However**, since you have come such a long way, and since this is the first time you have ever said a word about needing help, we obviously can't let you go back empty-handed.

006 Yangs

#<sup>1</sup> But since you've come so far today and this is the first time you've asked me for help, I can't send you away empty-handed.

In the Chinese part, there is no overt evidence to indicate contrast or concession. Instead, there is a clear causal relation between the first two clauses and the third main clause, expressed by 既 (jì, because, since) and correlated by 又 (yòu, and (because, since)), and the effect or result is expressed by 怎好...呢 (zěn hǎo...ne, how can I...). This causal relation is clearly shown in both translations: in Hawkes' by *since... and since...*, in Yangs' by *since ...and....* In addition to this overt causal relation, the implied mental contrast of the speaker between dismissing the guest empty handed or with some reward, which is implied in the Chinese text, is explicated by *however* and *but* in the two English translations.

Example 18 in this group also contains an implied concessive relation implied in an overt causal relation. This implied concession is expressed explicitly in both English translations, in Hawkes'



by *however*, in Yangs' by *but*. The causal relation in Chinese is expressed by 因 (yin, because) and correlated by 又 (you ` , and (because)), and the effect or result is expressed by 敢不 (gan` bu ` , how dare I not to...). This causal relation is reflected in Hawkes translation in a cause-effect relation linked by *so*, and in Yangs translation by a subordinate clause followed by a main clause of result. In both examples (13 and 18) the causal relation is clearly marked in English and Chinese, while the concessive relation is implied in Chinese but clearly marked in English.

18 010 Cao  
 昨 因 馮 大 爺 示 知， 大 人 家 第 謙 恭 下 士，  
 zuo ` yin feng ` da ` ye ` shi ` zhi, da ` ren ` jia di ` qian gong xia ` shi `  
 又 承 呼 喚， 敢 不 奉 命。  
 you ` cheng ` hu huan ` ,gan` bu ` feng ` ming `

010  
 Hawkes  
 #<sup>1</sup> **However**, Mr Feng was telling me yesterday of the courteous and considerate patronage of scholars which is traditional in your family , so when I received your summons I felt unable to refuse .

010  
 Yangs  
 #<sup>1</sup> " But when I heard yesterday from Mr. Feng that Your Lordship 's family is considerate to ordinary scholars and had condescended to send for me , how could I disobey your orders ?

Sub-table 3 contains 4 cases out of the 18 (22%) where, except in one translation, both the Chinese original and the English translations have overt concessive connectors. In Chinese the connectors are 卻 (que ` , 2 cases), 雖 (sui...卻 que ` ,1), and 到底 (dao ` di` ,1). In English they are *however*

(4), *as a matter of fact* (1), *Of course* (1), *Though... nevertheless* (1). The exception is Yangs' translation of 到底 (dao ` diˇ), in which no overt English concessive connector is used. This indicates that in the sample only a minority of the Chinese contrastive connectors are clearly expressed by Chinese words.

Sub-table 4 contains two cases where one Chinese original has an overt unconditional concessive expression (任憑是什麼好的 (ren ` ping ´ shi ` shen ´ mo ` haoˇde, *no matter how (good)*), whereas another an implied one in 人來客往 (ren ´ lai ´ ke ` wangˇ, *no matter how (many guests come and go)*). Hawkes used *however* to translate the overt Chinese expression and a conditional clause to translate the implied one; Yangs used the superlative degree to translate the overt unconditional concession in Chinese, and *however* to translate the implied one. This shows the unconditional concessive expression *no matter how* in Chinese can be overt or implied, and its English translation can use *however* as an equivalence, or can resort to other means to do this. Here is an example.

16 010 Cao 衣裳任憑是什麼好的,可又值什麼!  
Yi shang ren ` ping ´ shi ` shen ´ mo ` haoˇde keˇ you ` zhi ´ shen ´ mo !

010 #<sup>1</sup> Never mind about the clothes , for goodness ' sake , **however** good they are !  
Hawkes

010 #<sup>1</sup> This will never do . #<sup>2</sup> The finest clothes are nothing compared with her health .

Yangs #<sup>3</sup> She can wear new ones every day if it comes to that .

In this aligned pair, Hawkes used *however good* but Yangs used the superlative degree (*the finest clothes*) to translate the Chinese original 任憑是什麼好的 (ren ` ping ´ shi ` shen ´ mo ` haoˇde). Both translators convey the original meaning accurately. In fact, as an unconditional concessive marker, *however* still signals concession in these two cases, although it also functions locally as an intensifier modifying its ensuing adjective. This concession occurs within the sentence, between the *however* subordinate clause and the main clause. Therefore these two cases actually demonstrate concessive relations at sentence level, while the previous cases demonstrate concessive relations at discourse or inter-sentence level.

### 1.3 Overt vs. implied contrastive connectors

To further compare the 20 Chinese originals with the English translations, the contrastive connectors in the Chinese originals are condensed to two types: implied vs. overt. The 40 translations in the two versions (Hawkes + Yangs) are first divided to four types, based on frequency: *however* vs. *but* vs. *0* vs. *other* (which includes other connectors), and then also condensed to two types: overt vs. zero. The result is shown in table 2.

**Table 2. Connector types of the Chinese original and English translation in the sample of HLM**

Function	No.	Chinese original	English translation (Hawkes + Yangs)	No. of such translation
Discourse	14	Implied	<i>however</i>	16

c / c connector				
			<i>but</i>	7
			<i>0</i>	3
			<i>although</i>	1
			<i>and, as</i>	1
	4	Overt	<i>however</i>	4
			<i>as a matter of fact</i>	1
			<i>of course</i>	1
			<i>though...nevertheless</i>	1
			<i>0</i>	1
Clause c/c connector (intensifier)	1	Overt	<i>however</i>	1
			<i>0</i>	1
	1	Implied	<i>0</i>	1
			<i>however</i>	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>			<b>40</b>
<b>Discourse sentence connector:</b>	<b>18:2 =90%:</b>	<b>Implied: overt =15:5</b>	<b><i>However:but:0:other</i> <i>However+but+other:0</i></b>	<b>22: 7: 6: 5 =34: 6</b>
<b>Clause connector:</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>=75%:25%</b>	<b><i>Overt:0</i></b>	<b>=85%:15%</b>

As demonstrated by Table 2, 75% of the concessive relations in the original Chinese text segments are expressed by implied contrastive Chinese connectors, only 25% by overt ones. In the English translations, by contrast, 85% of these relations are expressed by overt contrastive or concessive English connectors, only 15% by zero English connectors, i.e., by other means such as using conditional relations. This is indeed a striking difference. It has been observed and suggested (cf. Cao, 1994, Lin and Li, 2004, Pan, 2004 and articles in Wang and Zheng 2004) that the Chinese language is an implicit language, whereas English is an explicit language. In terms of expressing contrastive or concessive relations, this observation is certainly true. The English language tends to use clear and overt connectors such as *however* and *but* to indicate these relations, whereas in Chinese such connectors are often implied. Another finding, as witnessed in this sample, is that most of these contrastive connectors in both languages are used at discourse level. The ratio between discourse level (between sentences) and clause level (within sentences) is 90% vs. 10%.

#### 1.4 Positional distributions of C/E contrastive connectors

The positional distribution of the contrastive Chinese and English connectors in this sample is summarized in Table 3.

**Table 3. Position comparison of contrastive Chinese connectors and English connectors in the sample of HLM**

Position	Sentence	Clause	Second	other	Total	Initial vs. other
Connectors	initial	initial	sentence initial			
<b>Chinese</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17: 3</b>

						=85%:15%
<b>English</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>21:19</b> =52.5%:47.5%
<b>however</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>10:12</b> =45.5%:54.5%
but	7				7	
other	3	1	1		5	
Zero connector				6	6	

As indicated by Table 3, most of the Chinese contrastive connectors, implied or overt, occur in sentence or clause initial, which total 85%. The connector positions of the English translation are more varied, where the initial positions total 52.5%, and the second initial 32.5%. Further analysis reveals that this high percentage of second initial position is mainly caused by the concessive connector *however*, whose sentence initial positions take 45.5% but second sentence initial positions take 54.5%. This high percentage of initial Chinese contrastive connectors seems to be related to the phrase-centered characteristic of the Chinese language, particularly in spoken Chinese, where phrases combine to form sentences with great freedom, leaving the subject implied or unexpressed. The high percentage of second initial position of *however* is partly caused by the characteristic of the English syntax, where subject is normally required in the sentence, partly by the flexible positions *however* can have in the sentence, and especially by the double functions it serves in second initial position: emphasizing the immediate preceding part and signalling a

contrast or concession (Altenberg 2006). An example:

誰 知 狗 兒 利 名 心 甚 重, 聽 如 此 一 說,  
 Shui ´ zhi gou ˇ er ´ li ` ming ´ xin shen ` zhong ` , ting ru ´ ci ˇ yi shuo ´ ,  
 14 006 Cao  
 心 下 便 有 些 活 動 起 來。  
 xin xia ` bian ` you ˇ xie huo ´ dong ` qi ˇ lai ´

006 #<sup>1</sup> Gou - er 's cupidity , **however** , had been aroused by the words of his mother - in  
 Hawkes - law , and his reaction to them was less discouraging than his wife 's .

In the Chinese part, 誰知(Shui ´ zhi ) implies unexpectedness and occurs in sentence initial, which can be optionally preceded by the contrastive connector 卻 (que ` ) or 可 (ke ` ) but either is implicit. They all indicate what ensues is against expectation. Gou - er 's cupidity is emphasized which leads to his unexpected change of mind. In addition three pronouns are omitted but can be inferred to. In Hawkes English translation, *however* occurs after the initial Gou - er 's cupidity. This second initial position both highlights cupidity by foregrounding it and signals the unexpected change of Gou - er 's mind. Besides, all the omitted pronouns in Chinese are added in English.

**Summary.** To sum up, (1) *however* is most of all a contrastive or concessive connector between sentences. In this sample of 20 aligned text segments and translations from HLM which contain *however*, 90% of them are used between sentences, only 10% of them are used at clausal level within the sentence: as an adverbial intensifier before an adjective in the subordinate clause, which concedes to the main clause. (2) The Chinese contrastive connectors are more implicit than explicit.

Among the 20 original Chinese contrastive connectors, 75% of them involve an implied Chinese contrastive connector, half of which is followed by some other concessive Chinese expressions which render the overt contrastive Chinese connector unnecessary. Only 25% of them are expressed by overt contrastive or concessive connectors. The English connectors are more explicit than implicit in expressing contrastive relations: the ratio between overt and zero English connectors being 85% to 15%. (3) The positional distributions of the contrastive connectors in these two languages differ considerably. 85% of the Chinese contrastive connectors occur in the beginning of the sentence or clause, whereas in English only 52.5% do so. The second initial positions of *however* is especially common: 54.5% in the sample, due to its double functions in this position: highlighting the initial element of the sentence and indicating a contrast or concession. (4) The differences between the contrastive connectors in Chinese and English are likely to be related to the implicit characteristic of the Chinese language, the frequent omission of subjects in Chinese sentence, the explicit characteristic of the English language and the constrain of its syntactic structure, where subject is normally required.

## **Part 2 *However* in the E/C translation corpus *Babel***

### **2.1 Sample, research purpose and result**

To study the usage and behavior of *however* and its translations from English into Chinese, I used the on-line *Babel English-Chinese Parallel Corpus*

([http://icl.pku.edu.cn/icl\\_groups/parallel/workspace.htm](http://icl.pku.edu.cn/icl_groups/parallel/workspace.htm)), which “consists of 327 English articles and their translations in Mandarin Chinese”, totaling “544,095 words (253,633 English words and 287,462 Chinese tokens)”, about half of them taken from *World of English* and half from *Time*, both between the years 2000 and 2001.



102 aligned sentence pairs of texts are retrieved from the Babel which contain *however* in the English sentence and its translation in the Chinese sentence. One match (item 58) is wrong and is excluded from the sample, leaving 101 alignments. I counted the sample regarding three aspects as follows (and the result is recorded in the table below).

- What Chinese words *however* is translated into
- What frequencies these Chinese translations are
- What positions *however* takes in the English sentences; what positions the Chinese translations take in the Chinese sentences

*However* and its Chinese translations, as well as their positions in the 101 aligned translation pairs retrieved from the Babel corpus are listed in table 4.

**Table 4: *However* and its Chinese translations in the Babel corpus**

English	Total no.	Sentence initial	Second sentence initial	Sentence final	Chinese	No.	%	Sentence initial	Second sentence initial	Sentence final
<i>However</i>	101	39	50	9	16 items	101		95	6	
%		38.6%	49.5%	8.91%				94.06%	5.94%	
					然而 rañerˇ	38	37.6			
					不过 bu guò	26	25.7			
					但是 dan ` shi `	11	10.89			
					但 dan `	7	6.93			
					可是 ke ` shi `	4	3.96			
					0	4	3.96			
					而 erˇ	2	1.98			
					还是 hai ´ shi `	1	0.99		1	
					仍然 reng ran ´	1	0.99		1	
					不管怎样 bu ` guan ` zen ` yang `	1	0.99			
					不管怎么说 bu ` guan ` zen ` mo shuo ´	1	0.99			
					不管...多 bu ` guan ` ...du	1	0.99		1	

					o´					
					(不论)...多么(bu lun `)...duo´ mo	1	0.99			
					则ze´	1	0.99		1	
					竟jing`	1	0.99			
					其实qi´ shi´	1	0.99		1	

**Second sentence initial: after initial subject, initial adverbial, initial subject + verb). Sentence final includes main clause final.**

## 2.2 Result analysis and discussion

(1) As indicated by the middle column of the table, *however* is translated into 16 different Chinese connectors (including 4 zero (implied) connectors). These Chinese connectors are synonyms, expressing contrast or concession, some of them very strong (such as但是 dan ` shi ` , 但 dan ` , 不管...多 bu ´ guan`... duo ´ , (不论)...多么 (bu ´ lun) ` ...duo ´ mo ` ), some of them mild (such as然而 ran ´ erˇ, 不过 bu ´ guo ` ), some of them very weak (such as则 ze ´ , 其实 qi ´ shi ´ ). This range of Chinese translations reflects that the meaning of *however* is interpreted slightly differently by different translators. Translation seems to be a process of understanding and re-expression. 16 different Chinese connectors are used to translate the same English connector *however*, which shows the wide range of possible Chinese translations of this English contrastive connector.

(2) Among the 101 Chinese translations of *however*, 然而 (ran ´ erˇ) is used most frequently (37.6%). Then comes 不过 (bu ´ guo ` )(25.7%), 但是 (dan ` shi ` ) (10.89%), 但 (dan ` ) (6.93%), 可是 (ke`shi ` ) (3.96%), zero Chinese connector (3.96%), and 而 (erˇ) (1.98%). Each of the rest 9 connectors takes less than 1%. This shows *however* is widely regarded in the Chinese translation as the equivalent of the direction-changing concessive Chinese connectors 然而 (ran

erˇ) and 不过 (bu ´ guo `), which total 63.3%. It is also fairly commonly interpreted as a strong contrastive connector in the Chinese translation, as indicated by the two strong contrastive connectors in Chinese--但是(dan ` shi `) and 但 (dan `)-- which total 17.82%. The implied Chinese connectors for *however* in the Chinese translations are far less common than in the Chinese to English translations (as evidenced in Hong Lou Meng): only 4 such translation cases occur, about 3.96%. This seems to imply the translators are keen to have the contrastive or concessive relations signalled by *however* in English clearly expressed in the Chinese translations.

(3) The most frequent position of *however* in the sample is in second sentence initial-- after an initial subject, adverb, adverbial phrase, or subject plus (different forms of ) a verb—which totals 49.5%. The second most frequent position of *however* is in sentence beginning: 38.6%. The final position of *however* totals 8.91%, where *however* occurs in the end of sentence or main clause. In contrast, most Chinese contrastive or concessive connectors occur in sentence initial—94.06% in the sample. Only 5.94% occurs in the sentence medial position. This big difference in the distributional positions of *however* and its Chinese translations reveals the different usage patterns of them in the two languages, which tends to have a strong mother-tongue influence on the learners in learning the other language. This is clearly evidenced by the misuse of *however* by learners of English in China, who tend to heavily overuse *however* in sentence initial position and underuse it in second sentence initial position, as demonstrated by my survey of the positional distributions of *however* in three one million word corpora: the Brown, the LOB, and the CLEC (Chinese Learner English Corpus).

**Conclusion** As indicated by the above analysis of the 101 aligned E /C translation pairs, (1) the contrastive connector *however* is translated into a range of Chinese connectors, most frequently

into 然而 (rán'ér) (37.6%) and 不过 (bùguò) (25.7%). *However* is interpreted in the Chinese translation as being a formal contrastive connector, in most cases the contrast being mild to middle, in some cases strong. (2) Most cases (96%) of *however* are translated into an overt Chinese contrastive connector. This is in sharp contrast to the findings in Part 1 where most (75%) of the Chinese counterparts of *however* are implied. This seems to indicate that the contrastive connectors such as *however* are more explicitly translated in E/C translation than in the Chinese original. If this is true, then the E/C translation process may have produced an inter-language which is similar to but is not natural Chinese. It also implies that the translation process is a clarifying process, which makes the translation more explicit than the original. It remains to be proved if this is the case. (3) The positional distributions of *however* and its Chinese translations are rather different. *However* is most frequently used in second sentence initial (49.5%) and initial (38.6%) position. The Chinese counterparts are mostly in sentence initial position (94.06%). This confirms the findings in Part 1, where the sentence initial positions of the Chinese connectors total 85%, but those of the English transitions total 52.5%, and the second initial positions of *however* total 54.5%.

The above findings only apply to this small-scale study based on Chinese to English translation corpus of HLM and English to Chinese translation corpus of Babel, but they have revealed some of the interesting characteristics of contrastive connectors in both languages. Large and comprehensive parallel corpora are needed for further research to reveal the overall usage patterns of contrastive connectors in both languages. This seems to be a promising field of research, the findings and result of which can be applied to the teaching and learning of these two languages among non-native speakers, and to the (automatic) translation practice between English and Chinese.

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