

The differences between scientific English and general English

Professor Si

Foshan University



Oral English

A: It appears that you've got the offer of a very good job.

B: A wonderful job.

A: Are you going to take it?

B: I don't think so.

A: Why not?

B: I don't want to.

特点:用词自由,句法简单,<u>短句与省略句多</u>,自然朴素,生活气息浓郁。



- She was of a helpless, fleshy build, with a frank, open countenance and an innocent, diffident manner. Her eyes were large and patient, and in them dwelt such a shadow of distress as only those who have looked sympathetically into the countenances of the distraught and helpless poor know anything about.
- 那妇人生着一副绵软多肉的体格,一张坦率开诚的面容,一种天真羞怯的神气。一双大落落的柔顺眼睛,里边隐藏着无穷的心事,只有那些对于凄惶无告的穷苦人面目作过同情观察的人才看得出来。

一摘自《珍妮姑娘》(Jennie Gerhardt),傅东华译.



Scientific English

- The range of a voltmeter may be extended by means of a series resistor called a multiplier as shown in Fig. 2. The full scale reading of the meter alone may be 15volts. With the multiplier 250 volts may be required to move the pointer to full-scale, 135 volts across the multiplier and 15 volts across the meter.
- 特点: 清晰、准确、精练、严密。



专业英语的语言结构特色:

- 一、大量使用名词化结构
- 二、广泛使用被动语句
- 三、非限定动词
- 四、后置定语
- 五、常用句型
- 六、长句
- 七、复合词与缩略词
- 八、部分否定





一、大量使用名词化结构 More Nominalization Structures





(一) 大量使用名词化结构是科技英语的特点之一。因为科技文体要求行文简洁、表达客观、内容确切、信息量大、强调存在的事实。而非某一行为。

Archimeds first discovered the principle of displacement of water by solid bodies.

• 阿基米德最先发展固体排水的原理。 句中d displacement d water by solid bodies 系名词化结构,一方面简化了同位语从句, 另一方强调displacement 这一事实。



- The rotation of the earth on its own axis causes the change from day to night.
- 地球绕轴自转,引起昼夜的变化。
 名词化结构the rotation of the earth on its
 own axis 使复合句简化成简单句,而且使表达的概念 加确切严密。



- If you use firebricks round the walls of the boiler, the heat loss, can be considerably reduced.
- 炉壁采用耐火砖可大大降低热耗。





- (二)科技英语所表述的是客观规律,因此 要尽量避免使用第一、二人称;此外,要 使主要的信息置于句首。
- •Television is the transmission and reception of images of moving objects by radio waves.
- 电视通过无线电波发射和接受活动物体的 图象。



• 名词化结构the transmission and reception of images of moving objects by radio waves 强调接收和发射的客观事实,若该用谓语动词transmit and accept则着重其发射和接受的能力。







二、广泛使用被动语句 Application of Passive Tense





- 使用频率(frequency): 根据英国利兹大学John Swales 的统计,科技英语中的谓语至少三分之一是被动态。
- 使用原因(why): 这是因为科技文章侧重叙事推理,强调客观准确。
- 第一、二人称使用过多,会造成主观臆断的印象。因此尽量使用第三人称叙述,采 用被动语态。



- •Attention must be paid to the working temperature of the machine.
- 应当注意机器的工作温度。
- 而很少说: ou must pay attention to the working temperature of the machine.
- 你们必须注意机器的工作温度。



- 此外,科技文章通常将需要强调的主要信息前置,或放在主语部份,以引起读者的高度关注。这也是广泛使用被动态的主要原因。例如:
- We can store electrical energy in two metal plates separated by an insulating medium. We call such a device a capacitor, or a condenser, and its ability to store electrical energy capacitance. It capacitance is measured in farads.



- 电能可储存在由一绝缘介质隔开的两块金属极板内。这样的装置称之为电容器,其储存电能的能力称为电容。电容的测量单位是法拉。
- 这一段短文中各句的主语分别为: Electrical energy Such a device Its ability to store electr ical energy It (Capacitance)
- 它们都包含了较多的信息,并且处于句首的位置, 非常醒目。个主语完全不同,避免了单调重复, 前后连 ,自然流 。 见被动结构可收简洁客观 之效。



三、非限定动词 Nonfinite Verbs





- 常用的非限定动词类型:科技文章要求行文简练,结构紧凑。为此,往往下列结构:①使用分词短语代替定语从句或状语从句;②使用分词独立结构代替状语从句或并列分句;③使用不定式短语代替各种从句;④介词 动名词短语代替定语从句或状语从句。
- 应用效果: 这样可缩短句子,又比较醒目。
- A direct current is a current flowing always in the same direction. (分词代替定语从句)
- 直流电是一种总是沿同一方向流动的电流。
- Radiating from the earth, heat causes air currents to rise. (分词代替状语从句)
- 热量由地球辐射出来时,使得气流上升。



- A body can more uniformly and in a straight line, there being no cause to change that motion.
- 如果没有改变物体运动的原因,那么物体将作匀速直线运动。(不定式代替定语从句)
- Wibrating objects produce sound waves, each vibration producing one sound wave. (分词短语代替并列从句)
- 振动着的物体产生声波,每一次振动产生一个声波。



- In communications, the problem of electronics is how to convey information from one place to another.
- 在通讯系统中,电子学要解决的问题是如何把信息 从一个地方传递到另一个地方。
- Materials to be used for structural purposes are chosen so as to behave elastically in the environmental conditions.
- 结构材料的选择应使其在外界条件中保持其弹性。



- There are different ways of changing energy from one form into another.
- 将能量从一种形式转变成另一种形式有各种不同的方法。(介词+动名词短语代替从句)
- In making the radio waves correspond to each sound in turn, messages are carried from a broadcasting station to a receiving set.
- 使无线电波依次对每一个声音作出相应变化时,信息就由广播电台传递到接收机。 (介词+动名词短语代替从句)



四、后置定语 Postpositional Attribute





大量使用后置定语也是科技文章的特点之一。常见的结构不以下五种:①介词短语;②形容词及形容词短语;③副词;④单个分词;⑤定语从句。

•1. 介词短语

The forces due to friction are called frictional forces.

由于摩擦而产生的力称之为摩擦力。

A call for paper is now being issued. 征集论文的通知现正陆续发出。



• 2. 形容词及形容词短语

In this factory the only fuel available is coal.

该厂唯一可用的燃料是煤。

In radiation, thermal energy is transformed into radiant energy, similar in nature to light.

热能在辐射时,转换成性质与光相似的辐射能。



• 3. 副词

The air outside pressed the side in. 外面的空气将桶壁压得凹进去了。

The force upward equals the force downward so that the balloon stays at the level.

向上的力与向下的力相等,所以气球就保持在这一高度。



●4 单个分词

The results obtained must be cheeked.

获得的结果必须加以校核

The heat produced is equal to the electrical energy wasted.
产生的热量等于浪费了的电能。

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