

从单词加工的角度看中文生物类期刊英文摘要的编辑*

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摘要 对英文摘要编辑加工的目标是力求正确、简洁,与国际接轨。从最简单的英文单词加工的角度,举例说明通过删除冗余词、添加连接词、辨别“陷阱词”、升华口语词,使行文简洁、语法合理、叙述正确,提高书面化水平。

关键词 生物类期刊;英文摘要;单词加工

Editing English abstracts in Chinese biological journals at lexical level//YU Xueling, YAN Mingfan, CHEN Jing

Abstract Editing and processing of English abstracts should pursue the goal of conciseness, accuracy and internationalization. From the perspective of lexical editing, examples are provided in this article to illustrate that abstracts with concise expression, correct grammar, accurate description and improved formality could be achieved by deleting redundancy, properly adding using conjunctions, differentiating confusable words, and formalizing colloquial words.

Keywords biological journal; English abstract; lexical processing

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摘要是科技论文的必要部分,中文学术期刊的对外交流主要借助于英文摘要,其重要性不言而喻。尽管其篇幅不大,问题却层出不穷^[1]。英文摘要编辑加工的目标是力求正确、简洁,与国际接轨。《生物技术通讯》为中文生物类期刊,一直在英文摘要的编辑加工方面摸索前行。本文从最简单的英文单词加工的角度,举例说明通过删除冗余词、添加连接词、辨别“陷阱词”、升华口语词,使行文简洁、语法合理、叙述正确,提高书面化水平。

1 删除冗余词

科技语言贵在简洁^[2],科技英语同样是“益一字则文赘,损一字则意阙”。在不影响表达含义的前提下,可以大胆删除多余的单词。

例 1 Bevacizumab is a recombinant humanized monoclonal IgG1 antibody that inhibits the growth of tumor by the inhibition of the activity of vascular endothelial growth factor.

修改为: Bevacizumab is a recombinant humanized monoclonal IgG1 that suppresses tumor growth by inhibiting

vascular endothelial growth factor.

例 2 The result of luciferase reporter assay showed that the transcriptional activities of ER α and ER α with mutations at phosphorylation sites of 224(Thr) and 559(ser) increased significantly.

修改为: Luciferase reporter assay showed that the transcriptional activities of ER α and its T224A and S559A mutants increased significantly.

例 1 中, IgG1 本身就是一种抗体,所以 antibody 一词完全是多余的。对血管内皮生长因子的抑制就是抑制该因子促进血管生成的活性, activity 一词冗余。例 2 中,“检测结果表明”实际上是中文的表达习惯,将“结果”一词按部就班地翻译到英文句子中其实没有必要,反而显得啰唆。摘要中对结果的叙述应简明、确切,没有必要提供过多的细节,将第 2 个划线部分修改为“its T224A and S559A mutants”,既保留了重要信息,又简化了表达。还有一些词若使用不当,也就“画蛇添足”了。例如在结果中给出 $P < 0.05$ 的同时还出现“significantly”或“obvious(ly)”,编辑应果断删除。

2 添加连接词

汉语较少使用连接词,也不受语法规则的约束^[3]。如果按照中文的表达习惯翻译成若干短句,则显得单调、重复。科技论文的英文摘要中,提倡尽量使用短句,但要避免单调和重复^[4]。添加连词如同使用胶水一样将关联的句子粘在一起,可以解决这个问题。

例 3 Protein drugs need to be delivered into cells to exert pharmacological actions. Low efficiency in intracellular delivery has become an obstacle to the development of many protein drugs.

修改为: Because protein drugs need to be delivered into cells to exert pharmacological actions, low efficiency in intracellular delivery has become an obstacle to their development.

例 4 It has been shown that cancer patients have higher levels of exosomes in their blood. The exosomes derived from cancer patients contain cancer biomarkers.

修改为: It has been shown that exosomes in the blood of cancer patients are at abnormally high levels and

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contain cancer biomarkers.

例3的原文由2个短句组成,通过添加引导原因状语从句的从属连词“because”将二者紧密联系起来,增强了逻辑性,并且避免了“protein drugs”的重复使用。例4中“exosomes”和“cancer patients”反复出现,导致表达重复。将“exosome”作为宾语从句中的主语并添加并列连词“and”将2个短句的内容整合在一起,使句子变得更加简洁,层次分明。英文摘要中常用的连词有 however、although、therefor、since、not only...but also 等。编辑如果能够巧妙地添加连词,可使篇章架构更清晰,内容上环环相扣,更具逻辑性。

3 辨别“陷阱词”

“陷阱词”为易混淆词^[5],或形近或意似,乍看正确,其实不然。不仅作者,甚至编辑有时也会用错;因此,编辑应从词形上和词义上仔细分辨,注意提高对陷阱词的辨识能力。

例5 Topical delivery of nucleic acids for the treatment of skin diseases can avoid enzymatic degradation associated with systematic administration.

修改为:Topical delivery of nucleic acids for the treatment of skin diseases can avoid enzymatic degradation associated with systemic administration.

例6 Pull-down and ELISA assays revealed that FGFR3D23 could interact with the BoNT/AHC.

修改为:Pull-down and ELISA assays revealed the interaction between FGFR3D23 and BoNT/AHC.

例5中的“systemic”和“systematic”词形非常相似,而且都可表示“系统的”这一含义,所以很容易被混淆;但是作为专门术语,只有“systemic”表示“全身的”这一含义。其他一些形似词也常常引起混淆,例如“administer”和“administrate”,“stimulate”和“simulate”,“affect”和“effect”。

例6中将“能够”直译为“could”并不可取。虽然“can/could”一般翻译为“能够”,表示一种能力,但作为情态动词使用还表示推测。在结论中使用该词,反而增加了结果的不确定性^[6]。将中文词语直译为对应的英文往往会导致类似的错误。例如“常见(common)”病并不“popular”,除非真正用眼睛看到,否则观察就不是“observe”,而是“determine”或“measure”。

4 升华口语词

科技英语的正式性和学术性很大程度体现在词的

使用上,普通词汇的书面表达非常必要。表达口语化使文章的学术性大打折扣^[7]。编辑可将这些词升华为更为正式的书面表达词。

例7 The high level of IFN- γ + CD4 + , IL-4 + CD4 + and IFN- γ + CD8 + T splenocytes in mice vaccinated with recombinant spores indicated good humoral and cellular immunities induced by oral vaccination.

修改为:The increased level of IFN- γ + CD4 + , IL-4 + CD4 + and IFN- γ + CD8 + T splenocytes in mice vaccinated with recombinant spores indicated superior humoral and cellular immunities induced by oral vaccination.

例8 The amount and stability of γ -hemoglobin in cells in response to SARS-CoV N were determined by Western blotting.

修改为:The intracellular expression and stability of γ -hemoglobin in response to SARS-CoV N were determined by Western blotting.

例7中“高(high)”和“好(good)”这些常用的口语表达词汇并不适合在科技语篇中使用。为了增强科技论文的学术性,可替换为更为正式和严谨的“increased”和“superior”。例8中“amount in cells”(细胞内的量)实为在细胞内的表达量,将其替换为“intracellular expression”显得更为专业。频繁出现的口语词还包括“bad”“more and more”“have”“always”等,如果分别替换为“unfavorable”“increasing”“possess”“invariably”,则可大大增强文章的学术性。

5 参考文献

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