

## A Report on E-C Translation of Articles in the Economist under the Guidance of Skopos Theory

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### Abstract

As China seeks close ties with the world, Chinese people are also long to learn the world. Through foreign medias and magazines, we can get access to the information that we want. As a well-known magazine, The Economist offers in-depth articles including unique opinions and conceptions. After reading many articles from the Economist, the author selected some with appropriate contents for translation and made a brief analysis of them with the help of the skopos theory. The report consists of the Description of The Translation Task, Description of Translation Process, A Brief Introduction of the skopos theory, Case Analysis in translation and Conclusion. The author found that the skopos theory is really significant to the translation practice of news text. Besides, the author writes down the findings and experience in the translation process, hoping to give a hand to translation learners and researchers.

### Keywords

Skopos Theory; The Economist; Translation.

## 1. The Description of the Translation Task

### 1.1. Introduction of the Economist and the Significance of the Translation Practice

*The Economist* is an international newspaper printed in magazine-format and published digitally that focuses on current affairs, international business, politics, and technology. With the aid of apps and website, readers can conveniently get news they want to read. It is notable that there is no author's name on the newspaper. Because the company thought what the articles said is more important than who wrote them. Nearly every article is written under the guide of a clear stand. And the authors all try to convey as much information as they can. Despite limited words, there are still some challenges for some who want to translate them. News in the magazine relates to economic works and policies. And the authors always have their own clear stand. As for the words used in the news, they are totally different from the daily ones. Besides, a lot of jargons and terms are the authors' favorite, which also makes it harder for readers who never learned them before. Moreover, news features limited words with much information. Above all, it is an opportunity and also a challenge for Chinese readers to read and learn from this magazine.

Translating is an interesting but complex communicative process. There are a thousand Hamlets in a thousand people's eyes. So translators can benefit themselves if they continue to translate the articles from the magazine. First of all, reading more thought-provoking articles is a good way to experience foreign cultures. In addition, the translators will more easily find the mistakes they used to made and better solutions to improve their translations. In other words, they can think and express like a foreign writer. Secondly, despite large population, there are lots of people having difficulty reading and speaking English frequently in China. With the increasing globalization of world trade, translation is a necessary communicative way. Thirdly, translation is an accumulating process, which also makes sense in translation research.

## 1.2. The Background of the Project

As the global village comes to being, people around the world are experiencing a special cultural feast. People may live in different places but share the same information. But the fact is that quite a few people have difficulty in reading and understanding articles written in foreign languages. They might never meet the situation before. Therefore, excellent translation versions are needed. News is a kind of text that illustrates the fact. And news language is also a special language that people use to achieve their goals. It always contains lots of jargons and terms. So given its features, the skopos theory is the most suitable one to guide the process of translation. With the aid of the theory, the author explored some methods and strategies to deal with the problems in the process of translation.

## 2. Description of Translation Process

### 2.1. Pre-translation Preparation

Before translating the articles, the translator must have a rigorous working attitude and a strong sense of responsibility. Otherwise, many errors will not be avoided. And what the author needs to do next is to finish reading the articles carefully in order to have a basic understanding of the events. What's more, the translator also has to search for some news about the event and make sure every jargon and term is understood. After that, the translator should also prepare some tools, such as dictionaries. Due to the task, the author will also need to ask experts and professors for help. If necessary, going to the library and make good use of the books related to the translation are also needed.

### 2.2. While-translation Process

In accordance with the skopos theory, the purpose of the translation is the priority that translators need to notice. The author should bear in mind that the most important thing is to achieve the purpose of the translation. Only in this way can target readers have better reading experience when reading the version offered by the author. Besides, the author will pay more attention to the strategies and methods used in the process of translation. What's more, it is normal that the author will be confront with many words used in all fields. To do that, the author will underline them and refer to related books.

### 2.3. Proofreading

The translator divides this step into three parts. Firstly, the author should check whether there are mistakes in the version, such as words spelling, grammar and so on. Secondly, the translator needs to review the translation again to see if there are different translations of the same words in the translation, and pays attention to their integrity and whether the Chinese version saves the origin style and flavor. Thirdly, after the author checks the Chinese version, the translator will give it to the advisors and teachers. Through their efforts, the problems and mistakes in the translation will be found out and corrected. And then, the final translation will be offered.

## 3. Introduction of the Skopos Theory

As is known to all, skopos theory considers that translation actions are supposed to serve the target-readers during the whole translation process. In other words, what the purpose of the original text is and what the translator wants the reader to response are translators' priorities. What's more, the strategies and methods used in the translation process also depends on the purposes of the original texts. Only in this way can translator offer better versions. It is normally believed that there are three main rules of skopos theory, namely skopos rule, fidelity rule and coherence rule. And it is widely accepted that coherence rule and fidelity rule are subordinate to the skopos rule and the fidelity rule is subordinate to the coherence rule. And with the help

of the skopos theory, the translators have more freedom when doing the translation. Because they can only follow the skopos in accordance with the theory.

Vermeer, the great translation researcher, put forward that the skopos rule is the core and basic rule of skopos theory. Under the guidance the theory, all translations should be finished out of their purposes and translators should also achieve translation purposes and use the appropriate methods and strategies. In other words, the purposes and aims of the texts determine the translation strategies and methods. Normally, the purposes can be divided into three aspects, namely the basic purpose of the translators, the communicative function of the targeted text and the purposes achieved through adopting some specific translation strategies.[1][1] Normally, the communicative function is paid more attention. Skopos theory gives priority to the translation purpose.

As for the fidelity rule, the coherence between two languages is the focus of attention. The fidelity rule advocates that the translator should achieve inter—textual coherence between source language and target language, which means the translated version are supposed to be loyal to the original ones. “These concepts were explained in detail in the book *Ground Work for a general Theory of Translation* co-authored by Vermeer and reissuein1984.”[2] Moreover, adopting what strategies and methods also depends on the purpose of the translation versions and translators’ understanding of the original texts.

The coherence rule requests translators should meet the criterion of intra—textual coherence. In other words, source texts can be understood and accepted by the target readers. So, the translators only get information from the source texts and they can choose appropriate methods and strategies.

## 4. Case Analysis

When doing the translation, the translator has met many problems and difficulties. To solve them, the translator used the following measures.

### 4.1. At the Lexical Level

Skopos rule gives priority to the purpose of the translation. And when translating *the Economist*, making the translation readable and comprehensible is the goal of the author. Due to the great difference between Chinese and English, English words may equal with more Chinese vocabularies. So, the translator should always bear in mind that he must try his best to use the most suitable words. Besides, some tools like dictionaries will also be used. After all, there are still many things that the author doesn’t know. As for the selection of lexical meaning, the author plans to put it in the first place. Because if the author does not explain the original text clearly, the target readers will be confused. Lastly, the author will change the sentence order in order to make the sentences more readable.

#### 4.1.1. Selection of the Lexical Meaning

A word may have more than one meaning. It is a normal phenomenon that can be found in both English and Chinese. The translator should not only know the true meaning of the words but also figure out the writers’ intention. That’s how translator to avoid polysemy.

Example 1:

This week we publish our estimate of the true death toll from covid-19. It tells the real story of the pandemic. But it also contains an urgent warning.

本周我们公布了我们对新冠肺炎真实死亡的估计人数。它揭露了疫情中的实况，也蕴含着一个警示。

In example1, “tell” is a word whose literally meanings are “告诉”, that is, to give information to somebody by speaking or writing. However, according to Chinese reading habits, it is not

suitable to translate the word into the upper meanings. The author decided to render it as “揭露” in order to make it more suitable in the situation. The translated version is offered in accordance with the rule of coherence, which stresses that the target text must be translated in a way that it is coherent with its receivers, given their circumstance and knowledge.[3]

Example 2:

When you count all the bodies, you see that the pandemic has spread remorselessly from the rich, connected world to poorer, more isolated places.

如果统计所有死亡人数，就会看到疫情已无情地从富裕、互联的国家扩散到更为穷困和封闭的地方。

In example 2, “body” means “身体”， that is, the whole physical structure of a human or an animal.” However, according to the context, the “body” means the dead ones. Therefore, the translator decided to render it as “死亡人数”. When doing translation, a very important point the translator should bear in mind that they are responsible to select proper words to explain for the readers. They are supposed to clear away obstacles. Given totally different reading habits and cultural factors, translators should always embody skopos rule and fidelity rule when doing similar translation.

#### 4.1.2. Addition and Omission

It is inevitable to face up addition and omission when translating news. And the news is aimed to pass the correct message. So the translator is not only responsible to convey the true and correct message but also need to modify them in order to make it more readable.

Example 3:

By the end of April, according to Airfinity, vaccine-makers produced 1.7bn doses, 700m more than the end of March and ten times more than January.

据数据分析公司Airfinity统计，截至4月底疫苗生产商共生产17亿剂疫苗，比三月底多出7亿剂，比1月生产量多出了10倍。

Airfinity Ltd. is a life science data and analytics company headquartered in London, United Kingdom and was founded in 2015 by Rasmus Bech Hansen and Sacha Carton. If the Chinese version did not add “数据分析公司”， some readers will get confused and wonder what it is. So it would be better to add the related details. What’s more, the translator also keeps a balance of the accuracy and reader-orientedness.

## 4.2. At the Syntactic Level

Because of the differences in the way of thinking, people whose mother tongue is English always comfort to English writing habits. For example, they are used to putting the most significant content at the beginning of the sentence. While Chinese is totally opposite. Considering the differences, the author has to adjust the sentences’ order so that the translation can be accepted by Chinese readers.

### 4.2.1. Adjusting Sentence Order

Example 4:

It is wrong to put teenagers, who have a minuscule risk of dying from covid-19, before the elderly and health-care workers in poor countries.

青少年人群死于新冠肺炎感染的风险极小，因此不应让富裕国家的青少年在贫困国家的老年人和医护人员之前接种疫苗。

Due to the language difference, the translator adjusted the sentence order in order to comfort to the reading habits of target readers and make the sentences fluent.

### 4.2.2. Dividing Long Sentences

It is hard to translate a long sentence. So, dividing long sentence is a common and useful way in translation. When translating the long sentences, dividing them can make sure the logic between sentences clear. What's more, dividing long sentence also make sure the efficiency.

Example 5:

However, it does suggest that some parts of the world are particularly vulnerable—one example is South-East Asia, home to over 650m people, which has so far been spared mass fatalities for no obvious reason.

但它确实表明某些地区抗疫能力很弱——东南亚就是如此，该地区约有6.5亿人口，截至目前不知为何还没有过任何大规模新冠感染死亡事件。

In the translated version, the translator did not change the sentence order. For example, the sentence “one example is South-East Asia, home to over 650m people” was translated to “东南亚就是如此，该地区约有6.5亿人口。” Through dividing long sentences, the translator could not only understand the source language correctly but also keep the original flavor of the sentences.

## 5. Conclusion

In the process of translating, the author harvested some findings, which can be summarized into three points.

Firstly, when translating news, the authors finds that a common word always has different meanings which we never saw before. And if the translator chose the wrong one, the meaning of the whole sentence will be misunderstood. And the translation version also will mislead Chinese readers. So, a good translators should read articles from other fields. And as a qualified translator, he or she must keep learning. Only in this way, can he or she guarantee the quality of his or her work.

Secondly, translators should always pay more attention to the language ability. A translator is more like an erudite. As the language keeps developing and updating, the translators should also keep the pace with it. And translators should always be good at finding his or her own errors. Sometimes it might be a little difficult although there are many tools and devices. So, translators should learn from each other by exchanging views.

Thirdly, translation theories do help translators. Under guidance of skopos theory, the author understands what translators' priorities are. What's more, all translations should be finished out of their purposes and translators should also achieve translation purposes and use the appropriate methods and strategies. In other words, the purposes and aims of the texts determine the translation strategies and methods.

## References

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Appendix

**Table 1. The Article from The Economist (a)**

<p>America’s annual inflation rate soared to 4.2% in April, higher than expected and fueling concerns that rising consumer prices may become a problem for the American economy. Inflation hawks blame the huge amounts of stimulus injected into the economy and a boom in consumer demand (prices for used cars were up by a fifth, year on year). Global supply bottlenecks are also pushing up costs for manufacturers. The Biden administration, however, thinks inflationary pressures are temporary and will ease later this year.</p>	<p>美国4月份的年通胀率飙升至4.2%，高于预期，这加剧了人们对消费价格上涨可能成为美国经济问题的担忧。反对通胀的鹰派人士将此问题归咎于对经济的巨额刺激和消费需求的激增（二手车价格同比上涨了五分之一）。全球供应瓶颈也抬高了制造商的成本。然而，拜登政府认为通胀压力是暂时的，并将在今年晚些时候得到缓解。</p>
<p>Commodity prices are also going up, with the prices of iron ore and copper reaching record highs, in part because China’s factories are sucking up supplies. Oil prices are on the ascent again, approaching \$70 for a barrel of Brent crude.</p>	<p>大宗商品价格也在上涨，铁矿石和铜的价格达到了创纪录的高点，部分原因是中国的工厂正在消耗供应。油价也再次上涨，布伦特原油的价格每桶逼近70美元。</p>
<p>The FBI launched an investigation into a cyber-attack that forced the closure of the Colonial Pipeline, which stretches from Texas to New Jersey, providing half the transport fuel for America’s east coast. A criminal gang called DarkSide claimed responsibility. It describes itself as apolitical. There was some panic-buying of petrol (gas) as pump prices soared.</p>	<p>网络攻击迫使科洛尼尔管道运输公司（Colonial Pipeline）从德克萨斯州延伸至新泽西州的管道关停，该公司的管道为美国东海岸提供其所需一半的运输燃料，对此美国联邦调查局进行了调查。一个名叫“Darkside”的黑客团伙声称对此负责。它自称为非政府性组织。但随着汽油价格飙升，汽油出现了一些恐慌性抢购。</p>
<p>With the outlook for inflation uncertain, stockmarkets bounced around as investors pondered whether the Federal Reserve would change direction and raise interest rates. The share prices of high-growth big tech companies have fallen in recent weeks because higher bond yields lower the value of their forecast earnings.</p>	<p>由于通货膨胀的前景不明朗，当投资者考虑美联储是否会改变方向并提高利率时，股票市场开始反弹。由于最近几周较高的债券收益率降低了其预期收益的价值，所以高增长大型科技公司的股价下跌。</p>
<p>Markets were also rattled by weak data on the American jobs market. Employers added 266,000 people to their payrolls in April, well below the numbers for February and March. And job vacancies hit 8.1m at the end of March, the most since records were first compiled in 2000. That led to a lot of head-scratching by economists trying to explain a lack of hiring when the economy is taking off.</p>	<p>美国就业市场数据疲软也令市场感到不安。4月份就业岗位仅增加26.6万人，远低于2月和3月。3月底，岗位空缺数量达到810万个，这是自2000年首次有记录以来的最高水平。这让许多经济学家在试图解释经济好转时摸不着头脑。</p>
<p>Just warming up</p>	<p>仅仅是回暖而已</p>
<p>The British economy shrank by 1.5% in the first quarter compared with the previous three months. The post-Christmas lockdown hit output hard in January, but by March it was expanding again as businesses adapted to the restrictions. GDP was still 6% smaller than before the start of the pandemic in February 2020.</p>	<p>与去年同期相比，今年一季度英国经济缩水1.5%。圣诞节后的疫情封锁使得一月份的出口受到重创，但到了3月份，由于企业适应各项限制，出口再次扩大。尽管如此，国内生产总值仍较2020年2月疫情肆虐开始前低6%</p>
<p>SoftBank reported net income of ¥5trn (\$46bn) for the year ending March 31st, a record annual profit for a Japanese company. Much of that came from gains in its vision-fund investments, particularly Coupang, a South Korean e-commerce company that went public in March. It reported a deep quarterly loss this week, despite rising sales.</p>	<p>软银公布截至3月31日的年度净收入为5万亿日元(合460亿美元)，创下日本公司的年度利润纪录。其中大部分来自其愿景基金投资的收益，尤其是三月份上市的韩国电子商务公司Coupang。尽管销量上升，但该公司本周公布了严重的季度亏损。</p>
<p>Elon Musk, a vocal backer of digital currencies, reversed his three-month-old policy and said that Tesla would not now accept bitcoin as payment for its cars because of the environmental effects from the electricity used to power the currency on computers.</p>	<p>埃隆·马斯克(Elon Musk)是数字货币的坚定支持者，他改变了自己实施了三个月的政策并表示特斯拉现在不会接受比特币作为购买其汽车的支付方式，因为给数字货币所在的电脑供电会对环境产生影响。</p>
<p>The EU’s General Court, the second highest in the bloc, ruled that the European Commission was wrong to order Amazon to pay €250m (\$300m) in taxes to Luxembourg, finding that the commission had not proved the firm received special tax treatment. The same court made a similar decision last year in the case of Apple; the</p>	<p>欧洲第二最高法院周四宣布，欧盟委员会要求亚马逊向卢森堡补缴约2.5亿欧元(约合3亿美元)税款的判决无效。且该法院发现欧盟委员会未能证明亚马逊在与卢森堡的税收协议中享有特殊的税收待遇。该法院去年在苹果案中也做出了类似的判决；该委员会正就该项裁决向欧洲法院提出上诉。</p>

<p>commission is appealing that ruling to the European Court of Justice.</p>	
<p>America’s Department of Defence agreed to remove Xiaomi from its ban on American investment in companies that are said to have ties to the Chinese army. The maker of smartphones and other devices had already won a suspension of the ban in court.</p>	<p>美国国防部同意对小米解除禁令，该禁令用于禁止美国投资与中国军方相关的公司。这家智能手机公司和其他设备制造商已经在法庭上赢得了终止此禁令的胜利。</p>
<p>Almost 40% of the shareholder vote at AstraZeneca’s annual meeting rejected the salary package for its CEO, the latest in a wave of rebellions by investors against generous payouts for executives dished out during the pandemic. The pay policy—which increases the potential bonus and stock awards for Pascal Soriot—was approved by just 60% of shareholders at the meeting.</p>	<p>在阿斯利康的年度股东会议上，近40%的股东投票否决了其首席执行官的薪酬方案，这是投资者对疫情期间向高管发放丰厚薪酬的新一轮抗议浪潮。该套薪酬政策包含增加高管帕斯卡尔·索里奥特（Pascal Soriot）的潜在奖金和股票奖励，因此在会议上仅获得60%的股东支持。</p>
<p>There were more signs of a recovery in the tourism industry. TUI, the world’s largest tour company, said there had been a clear pickup in demand. Although it doesn’t expect its business in 2021 to reach pre-pandemic levels, bookings for holidays next year from Britain, one of its biggest customer markets, are exceeding bookings at this point in 2019.</p>	<p>旅游业有更多的复苏迹象。全球最大的旅游公司途易表示，公司业务需求明显回升。尽管预计其2021年的业务量不会达到疫情前的水平，但其最大的客户市场之一英国明年的假期预订量正在超过2019年同时段。</p>
<p>THE first time Jean was offered heroin, she declined. One night, though, when she was 18 or 19, she decided to give it a try. Over the next few years, heroin led to meth, and meth led to fentanyl. It wasn’t until she got pregnant in 2017 that she decided to seek help. “I was at a point in my life where I kept consistently hitting rock bottom and I was OK with that,” says the 29-year-old from Denver. “But when I found out that I was pregnant with my daughter, I wanted better for her.”</p>	<p>尽管吉恩首次被提供海洛因时她拒绝了，但是在她18岁还是19岁的一个晚上，她决定一试。在接下来的几年里，她吸食各种毒品和药物。从海洛因到冰毒，然后是芬太尼。如此一直持续到2017年她怀孕，那时她才决定寻求帮助。这位来自丹佛的29岁的年轻人说：“在我的人生中，我一直处于低谷，对此我没有意见。”“但是当我发现我怀了我女儿之后，我就想要给她更好的生活。”</p>
<p>Not everyone has such a realization. While covid-19 rampaged across the country, America’s other epidemic has quietly boiled over. Provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest that just over 90,000 Americans died by drug overdose in the 12 months to October 2020, a 30% increase on the previous year. That is more than the number of people who were killed last year by car crashes (42,000) and guns (44,000) combined. Roughly 55,000 of those who overdosed died from synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, a 57% jump year-on-year.</p>	<p>然而不是每个人都有这样的认识。当新冠肺炎在全国肆虐的时候，另一场疫情在美国已经悄然爆发。美国疾控中心的临时数据显示，截至2020年10月的12个月中，因过量服用药物而死亡的美公民人数超过9万，比上一年增加了30%。这比去年死于车祸(42000人)和枪杀(44000人)的人数总和还要多。大约55,000名过量服用者死于如芬太尼的合成阿片类药物，同比增长57%。</p>
<p>The pandemic seems partly to blame for the increase. Dr Chris Thurstone, the director of behavioral health services at Denver Health, says the isolation wrought by lockdowns can worsen depression and anxiety, and substance abuse often increases during economic downturns, when people have lost their jobs or are worried about their finances. More people may have used drugs alone, or been unable to seek medical help when clinics closed or stopped accepting new patients. But there is more to the story. America’s opioid epidemic has entered a dangerous new phase thanks in large part to shifting—and modernizing—drug markets.</p>	<p>滥用药物现象变得频繁部分原因在于疫情。丹佛健康中心的行为健康服务主任克里斯·瑟斯顿（Chris Thurstone）博士说，疫情封锁导致的隔离会放大人们抑郁和焦虑的情绪。经济衰退期间，人们在失业或担心自己的财务状况时，药物滥用现象往往会更加频繁。更多的人可能是在单独使用药物，或者在诊所关闭或停止接收新患者时面临无法寻求医疗帮助的困境。但其背后另有隐情。美国鸦片泛滥已经进入了一个危险的新阶段，这在很大程度上要归咎于药物市场的转变和现代化。</p>
<p>The roots of the epidemic <u>can be traced back to prescription painkillers</u>, such as OxyContin, which was introduced in 1996. In the 15 or so years it took for the prescription opioid crisis to turn into an illicit opioid crisis, the geography of the epidemic remained relatively stable. Many hoped fentanyl, which is up to 100 times more potent than morphine per gram, would not spread beyond the East Coast and Appalachia, where it has wreaked the most havoc. Users in Western states have historically preferred black-tar heroin, which does not mix as well with fentanyl, to the white-powder heroin found in the east. “Opiate users generally have their drug</p>	<p>药物滥用普遍的根源可追溯到处方止痛药，如1996年推出的奥施康定。在处方类鸦片危机转变为非法类鸦片危机的15年左右时间里，药物滥用的地理范围分布保持相对稳定。许多人本希望芬太尼这类每克比吗啡效力高100倍的药物不要扩散到东海岸和阿巴拉契亚以外的地区，但是结果是芬太尼成了这些地区最大的祸患。与东部发现的白色粉末海洛因相比，西部各州的药物滥用者历来偏爱黑焦油海洛因，因为这类海洛因和芬太尼很好区分。“吸食鸦片的人通常有自己选择的药物，”美国缉毒局洛杉矶分部的管理员比尔·博德纳（Bill Bodner）表示。美国西部的老年人对鸦片上瘾，“他们过去对焦油海洛因上瘾，现在依然如此，以后还会这样。”</p>

<p>of choice,” says Bill Bodner, who runs the Los Angeles division of America’s Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Older westerners addicted to opioids, “were tar heroin users, they are tar heroin users, and they are going to continue to be tar heroin users.”</p>	
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**Table 2. The Article from The Economist (b)**

<p>THIS week we publish our estimate of the true death toll from covid-19. It tells the real story of the pandemic. But it also contains an urgent warning. Unless vaccine supplies reach poorer countries, the tragic scenes now unfolding in India risk being repeated elsewhere. Millions more will die.</p>	<p>本周我们公布了我们对新冠肺炎真实死亡的估计人数。它揭露了疫情实况，也蕴藏着一个警示。即除非疫苗供应到更为贫穷的国家，否则印度正在上演的悲剧有可能在其他地方重演。数百万人将会死亡。</p>
<p>Using known data on 121 variables, from recorded deaths to demography, we have built a pattern of correlations that lets us fill in gaps where numbers are lacking. Our model suggests that covid-19 has already claimed 7.1m-12.7m lives. Our central estimate is that 10m people have died who would otherwise be living. This tally of “excess deaths” is over three times the official count, which nevertheless is the basis for most statistics on the disease, including fatality rates and cross-country comparisons.</p>	<p>通过利用121个病毒变体的已知数据，从记录的死亡人数到人口统计，我们建立了一个能让我们填补了数字缺失空白的模式。我们的模型显示，新冠肺炎已经让710万至1270万人失去了生命。取以上区间取中位数得出的估计结果是，有1000万死亡病例本来是可以得到救治的。这一“过多死亡”的统计数字是官方统计数字的三倍多，尽管如此，官方统计还是成为新冠相关大多数统计数据（比如死亡率和跨国比较）的基础。</p>
<p>The most important insight from our work is that covid-19 has been harder on the poor than anyone knew. Official figures suggest that the pandemic has struck in waves, and that the United States and Europe have been hit hard. Although South America has been ravaged, the rest of the developing world seemed to get off lightly.</p>	<p>我们从工作中得到的最重要的启示便是：新冠肺炎对穷人的影响比已知的更为严重。官方数据显示，疫情是一波一波爆发的，美国和欧洲都受到了重创。尽管南美洲也遭到疫情侵略，但其他发展中国家的情况似乎并没有很严重。</p>
<p>Our modelling tells another story. When you count all the bodies, you see that the pandemic has spread remorselessly from the rich, connected world to poorer, more isolated places. As it has done so, the global daily death rate has climbed steeply.</p>	<p>我们的模型则显示情况并非如此。如果统计所有死亡人数，就会看到疫情已无情地从富裕、互联的国家扩散到更为穷困和封闭的地方。随着疫情的蔓延，全球单日死亡率急剧上升。</p>
<p>Death rates have been very high in some rich countries, but the overwhelming majority of the 6.7m or so deaths that nobody counted were in poor and middle-income ones. In Romania and Iran excess deaths are more than double the number officially put down to covid-19. In Egypt they are 13 times as big. In America the difference is 7.1%.</p>	<p>一些富裕国家的死亡率非常高，约有670万死亡人口中未被列入数据，他们中的绝大多数都来自中低收入国家。在罗马尼亚和伊朗，超额死亡人数比官方认定死于新冠病毒的人数要超出一倍还多。在埃及，这个数字则有13倍之多。而在美国，二者的差距仅为7.1%。</p>
<p>India, where about 20,000 are dying every day, is not an outlier. Our figures suggest that, in terms of deaths as a share of population, Peru’s pandemic has been 2.5 times worse than India’s. The disease is working its way through Nepal and Pakistan. Infectious variants spread faster and, because of the tyranny of exponential growth, overwhelm health-care systems and fill mortuaries even if the virus is no more lethal.</p>	<p>印度每天的死亡人数约为2万人，这并非一个例外。我们的数据表明，就死亡人数占人口的比例而言，秘鲁疫情的严重程度是印度的2.5倍。目前疫情正在尼泊尔和巴基斯坦扩散。病毒变种使其传染性变得更强，传播速度变得更快。而且因为病例呈指数级狂增，所以即使病毒不致命也会导致医疗系统瘫痪，太平间里“空位难求”。</p>
<p>Ultimately the way to stop this is vaccination. As an example of collaboration and pioneering science, covid-19 vaccines rank with the Apollo space programme. Within just a year of the virus being discovered, people could be protected from severe disease and death. Hundreds of millions of them have benefited.</p>	<p>最终，阻止这一切要靠接种疫苗。作为全力合作和前沿科学的典范，新冠疫苗的地位可与阿波罗太空计划相提并论。在新冠病毒发现后短短一年内，人们就能免于严重疾病和死亡的威胁。数以亿计的人因此受益。</p>
<p>However, in the short run vaccines will fuel the divide between rich and poor. Soon, the only people to die from covid-19 in rich countries will be exceptionally frail or exceptionally unlucky, as well as those who have spurned the chance to be vaccinated. In poorer countries, by contrast, most people will have no choice. They will remain unprotected for many months or years.</p>	<p>然而从短期来看，疫苗会使得贫富间的差距进一步拉大。很快在富裕国家中只有体质特别虚弱或不幸的人亦或是拒绝接种疫苗的人，才会死于新冠。相反，贫困国家里大部分人都毫无选择。未来数月或甚至数年中，他们都受不到任何保护。</p>
<p>The world cannot rest while people perish for want of a jab costing as little as \$4 for a two-dose course. It is hard to think of a better use of resources than vaccination.</p>	<p>现在还有许多人因为打不上成本仅为4美元德一针二剂次疫苗而失去生命，对此各国都不能放下警惕。我们也想不出比接种疫苗更好的资源利用方式。经济学家估计，新冠治疗的</p>



<p>Economists' central estimate for the direct value of a course is \$2,900—if you include factors like long covid and the effect of impaired education, the total is much bigger. The benefit from an extra 1bn doses supplied by July would be worth hundreds of billions of dollars. Less circulating virus means less mutation, and so a lower chance of a new variant that reinfects the vaccinated.</p>	<p>一个疗程的价格平均为2,900美元，如果把长期症状以及对受害者的教育影响等因素也考虑在内，其价值总量还要更高。如果7月前能多提供10亿剂疫苗，则受益价值将高达数千亿美元。病毒传播越少就意味着变异也越少发生，因此也会降低出现病毒变种再次感染已接种者的机率。</p>
<p>Supplies of vaccines are already growing. By the end of April, according to Airfinity, vaccine-makers produced 1.7bn doses, 700m more than the end of March and ten times more than January. Before the pandemic, annual global vaccine capacity was roughly 3.5bn doses. The latest estimates are that total output in 2021 will be almost 11bn. Some in the industry predict a global surplus in 2022.</p>	<p>疫苗供应量已经在增加。据数据分析公司Airfinity统计，截至4月底疫苗生产商共生产17亿剂疫苗，比三月底多7亿剂，比1月生产量多出了10倍。疫情爆发前，全球疫苗产能约为35亿剂。最新统计显示2021年的总产量将达到约110亿剂。一些业内人士预计到2022年全球疫苗将会过剩。</p>
<p>And yet the world is right to strive to get more doses in more arms sooner. Hence President Joe Biden has proposed waiving intellectual-property claims on covid-19 vaccines. Many experts argue that, because some manufacturing capacity is going begging, millions more doses might become available if patent-owners shared their secrets, including in countries that today are at the back of the queue. World-trade rules allow for a waiver. When to invoke them if not in the throes of a pandemic?</p>	<p>而且竭力让更多的人尽快接种疫苗才是世界的明智之选。由此拜登总统也建议豁免新冠疫苗的知识产权专利。很多专家认为，由于存在产能过剩，假如专利权持有者能与他人（包括那些生活在最贫穷国家中的人）分享专利权，则有望增加几百万剂的疫苗。世界贸易规则也允许专利权豁免。值此疫情肆虐之时，此刻不用更待何时？</p>
<p>We believe that Mr. Biden is wrong. A waiver may signal that his administration cares about the world, but it is at best an empty gesture and at worst a cynical one. A waiver will do nothing to fill the urgent shortfall of doses in 2021. The head of the World Trade Organization, the forum where it will be thrashed out, warns there may be no vote until December. Technology transfer would take six months or so to complete even if it started today. With the new mRNA vaccines made by Pfizer and Moderna, it may take longer. Supposing the tech transfer was faster than that, experienced vaccine-makers would be unavailable for hire and makers could not obtain inputs from suppliers whose order books are already bursting. Pfizer's vaccine requires 280 inputs from suppliers in 19 countries. No firm can recreate that in a hurry.</p>	<p>我们认为拜登总统这一步走错了。专利权豁免也许能表明其政府关心世界，但也不过是做做样子，往坏了说还有点讽刺的内涵。专利权豁免对2021年疫苗短缺的燃眉之急毫无帮助。世界各国本应在世贸论坛上讨论此事，但世贸总干事警告说要等到12月才可能举行投票表决。即便现在立刻开始，技术转让也要6个月左右的时间才能完成。如果是辉瑞和莫德纳生产的新mRNA疫苗，可能需要更长的时间。假设技术转让速度比预期的快，也找不到有经验的疫苗制造商，或者出现因为供应商订单爆满，制造商无法获取原物料的情况。辉瑞公司的疫苗制作需要向19个国家的供应商采购280种生产原料。没有任何公司能立刻将其仿制出来。</p>
<p>In any case, vaccine-makers do not appear to be hoarding their technology—otherwise output would not be increasing so fast. They have struck 214 technology-transfer agreements, an unprecedented number. They are not price-gouging; money is not the constraint on vaccination. Poor countries are not being priced out of the market: their vaccines are coming through COVAX, a global distribution scheme funded by donors.</p>	<p>无论如何，疫苗制造商不像是在私藏技术——不然疫苗的产量也不会增长得如此快。这些制造商已达成了214项技术转让协议，此数量前所未有。他们没有哄抬价格：金钱并不是疫苗接种的制约因素。贫穷国家并没有因价格过高而被挤出市场：他们可通过一个由捐助者资助的全球疫苗分配计划COVAX来获得疫苗。</p>
<p>In the longer term, the effect of a waiver is unpredictable. Perhaps it will indeed lead to technology being transferred to poor countries; more likely, though, it will cause harm by disrupting supply chains, wasting resources and, ultimately, deterring innovation. Whatever the case, if vaccines are nearing a surplus in 2022, the cavalry will arrive too late.</p>	<p>长期来看，专利权豁免的影响是很难预测的。也许它确实能将技术转移到贫困的国家；但是它也更可能因为冲击供应链，浪费资源造成危害，最终阻碍疫苗研发创新。不管怎样，如果疫苗要在2022年才刚好过剩，那此项援助也未免来得太迟了。</p>
<p>If Mr Biden really wants to make a difference, he can donate vaccine right now through COVAX. Rich countries over-ordered because they did not know which vaccines would work. Britain has ordered more than nine doses for each adult, Canada more than 13. These will be urgently needed elsewhere. It is wrong to put teenagers, who have a minuscule risk of dying from covid-19, before the elderly and health-care workers in poor countries. The rich world should not stockpile boosters to cover the population many times over on the off-chance that they may be needed. In the next six months, this could yield</p>	<p>拜登总统若真的想做点什么，他可以立刻通过新冠肺炎疫苗实施计划捐献疫苗。那些富裕国家由于不确定哪种疫苗有效，因此过量订购疫苗。英国订购的疫苗足以让每个成人接种超过9次，加拿大订购的量则足以让每个成人接种超过13次。这就导致疫苗在世界其他地方变得更加紧缺。青少年人群死于新冠肺炎感染的风险极小，因此不应让富裕国家的青少年在贫困国家的老年人和医护人员之前接种疫苗。富裕国家也不应该仅仅是为了“不时之需”，就囤积加强针疫苗，现在它们囤积的疫苗数量足够自己国家的人口接种好几次了</p>

<p>billions of doses of vaccine.</p>	<p>的。如果这些过量订购的疫苗能够被拿出来，就有望在未来6个月提供几十亿剂疫苗。</p>
<p>Countries can also improve supply chains. The Serum Institute, an Indian vaccine-maker, has struggled to get parts such as filters from America because exports were gummed up by the Defense Production Act (DPA), which puts suppliers on a war-footing. Mr. Biden authorized a one-off release, but he should be focusing the DPA on supplying the world instead. And better use needs to be made of finished vaccine. In some poor countries, vaccine languishes unused because of hesitancy and chaotic organization. It makes sense to prioritize getting one shot into every vulnerable arm, before setting about the second.</p>	<p>各国还可以完善供应链。美国的所有疫苗供应商都因《国防生产法案》进入了战备状态。印度疫苗制造商印度血清研究所受到了该法案的限制，所以难以从美国进口过滤器等材料。拜登总统虽然已对疫苗一次性出口授权，但他应把《国防生产法案》的重心放在世界疫苗原材料供应的方面，更好地利用已经制成的疫苗。在一些贫困国家则因为对疫苗持观望态度和组织混乱等因素出现了空有疫苗，却无人接种的情况。对此，应首先让易感者接种第一针疫苗，然后再考虑是否接种第二针。</p>
<p>Our model is not predictive. However, it does suggest that some parts of the world are particularly vulnerable—one example is South-East Asia, home to over 650m people, which has so far been spared mass fatalities for no obvious reason. Covid-19 has not yet run its course. But vaccines have created the chance to save millions of lives. The world must not squander it.</p>	<p>我们的模型并不能预测未来。但它确实表明某些地区抗疫能力很弱——东南亚就是如此，该地区约有6.5亿人口，截至目前不知为何还没有过任何大规模新冠感染死亡事件。新冠疫情还在蔓延。疫苗已经为数百万人创造了生机。世界各国都不应该浪费这个机会。</p>