Revision of a Non-Specialised Translation: List of Error Categories for Candidates (English into Simplified Chinese)

The translation includes errors at word, phrase or sentence level across the following categories:

Error Category	Examples of Errors
1. **Distortion**: An element of meaning in the source text is altered in the target text. A distortion can occur in an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.	a) Source language text: *This week the government announced that all public servants would get a pay rise.* Correct translation: *这周，政府宣布所有公务员都会涨工资* Incorrect version: *政府宣布所有公务员这周会涨工资。* (Changed the position of the time phrase "this week", as the original indicates the time the Government announced changes to pay, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.) b) Source language text: *The witness described the thief as a young man with black hair.* Correct version: *证人描述的小偷是一名黑发的男青年。* Incorrect version: *证人描述的小偷是一名金发的男青年。* ("Black" was translated as "blonde", thereby changing the meaning)
2. **Unjustified omission**: An element of meaning in the source text is not transferred into the target text. An unjustified omission can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.	Source language text: *The largest increases in soil carbon levels are obtained in the first 6–8 years after changes in land management, and after 35 years the rate of change drops to zero.* Correct version: *土壤碳水平增加量最大的时期是土地管理改革后的6-8 年，35 年后该变量降为零。* Incorrect version: *土壤碳水平增加量最大的时期是土地管理改革后的6-8 年。* (The underlined clause was omitted, thereby causing significant loss of the meaning of the sentence.)
3. **Unjustified addition**: An element of meaning that does not exist in the source text is added to the target text. An unjustified addition can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.	Source language text: *would guarantee that people leaving the workforce in their mid-60s enjoyed a financially secure retirement.* Correct version: *会保证人们到65 岁上下退休时能享受有财务保障的退休生活。* Incorrect version: *会保证人们到65 岁上下退休时能享受有财务保障的退休生活，并能安享晚年。* (The underlined text does not appear in the source, and it cannot be implied from the source, hence the addition of this text is not reasonably justified, and the meaning has undergone an unreasonable amplification.)
4. **Inappropriate register**: Incorrect variety of language or inappropriate	a) Source language text: *In a recent judgement, the Criminal Court handed down a three-month suspended sentence.*

vocabulary for the text type (e.g. inappropriate level of formality or informality).	Correct version: 在近期的一次审判中，刑事法庭的判决是三个月的缓刑。 Incorrect version 在近期的一次审判中，刑事法庭的决定是三个月的缓刑。 (In a legal register, the choice of sentence is described as being "判决" which matches the formal tone of "handed down…sentence" rather than "决定" meaning "decided", which does not match the formal register in this particular sentence.) b) Source language text: [in minutes of board meeting] *The Chairman expressed his extreme displeasure.* Correct version: 主席表示了他的强烈不满。 Incorrect version: 主席表示他非常不爽。 (The meaning of "非常不爽"(very pissed) is the same as the meaning of "強烈不滿"(extreme displeasure), but is too colloquial and not formal enough in this sentence.)
5. **Unidiomatic expression**: An expression sounding unnatural or awkward to a native speaker irrespective of the context in which the expression is used, but the intended meaning can be understood.	a) Source language text: *This year sees a strong increase in foreign investment.* Correct version: 今年外资有强势增长。 Incorrect version: 今年外资有强烈增长。 (强势增长 is a correct collocation, whereas although the meaning of 强烈增长 can be understood, it is not idiomatic) b) Source language text: *She went home, washed her hairs, changed her clothes and cleaned her room.* Correct version: 她回家，洗了头，换了衣服并打扫了房间。 Incorrect version: 她回家，洗了她的头，换了她的衣服并打扫了她的房间 (In Chinese, when the agent of an action is clear, the possessive adjective "她的"(her) does not need to be repeated before each related object. Hence the use of several "她的" in the translation is overly repetitive, and is extremely unnatural.)
6. **Error of grammar, syntax**: Error in structuring words, clauses and phrases of a language. E.g. incorrect word	a) Source language text: *A bunch of people came in and bought a bunch of flowers.* Correct version: 一群人进来买了一束花。

type/form; incorrect verb tense/form; agreement error between subject- verb, noun-pronoun, adjective- noun, etc.	Incorrect version: 一堆人进来买了一串花。 (The quantifier is incorrectly collocated.) b) Source language text: *He watched a movie.* Correct version: 昨天他看了场电影。 Incorrect version: 昨天他看完了场电影。 (The use of the perfect past tense of the verb is inappropriate.) c) Source language text: *My dog Milly just can't stop playing with her own tail.* Correct version: 我的小狗米莉老是不停玩弄它自己的尾巴。 Incorrect version: 我的小狗米莉老是不停玩弄她自己的尾巴。 (In written Chinese, unless there is no specific contextual or compositional need to the contrary, the third person pronoun for an animal is usually the corresponding neutral term.) d) Source language text: *It is the captain who flies the plane.* Correct version: 驾驶飞机的人是机长。 Incorrect version: 飞机是由机长驾驶的。 (The rendition of the emphasis is inappropriate.)
7. **Error of spelling**: Error in forming words with letters or characters. E.g. misspelling of a word/character, incorrect capitalisation.	Source language text: *The purpose of this activity is to build trust in the team*. Correct version: 这项活动的目的是要建立团队的信任感。 Incorrect version: 这项活动的目地是要建立团队的信任感。 (Use of incorrect character, whereby "的" in 目的 has been written as "地".)
8. **Error of punctuation**: Error in use of marks that separate sentences and their elements, and clarify meaning. E.g. incorrect comma, full-stop, apostrophe,	Source language text: *The government will change its policy on the taxation of trusts.* *Correct version: 政府会改动对于信托税务的政策。* Incorrect version: 政府, 会改动对于信托税务的政策。

inverted commas, etc.	(Incorrect use of the comma, which has inappropriately fragmented the subject and the verb.)