

## Discussion and Analysis of the Necessity of Creativity in Literary Translation from English to Chinese

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### Abstract

**In our society, literal translation is important for languages learners, but it's also challenging. There are many strategies in literary translation, but few is clearly about the creativity. The strategies of the translation from English to Chinese is also significant and difficult for languages learners. To find out whether creativity is needed and necessary in literary translation, the paper probes into the creativity of the process of literary translation from English to Chinese with the ways of studying others' thought on the creativity of literary translation and analysing examples myself. This paper will dicuss and analyse the necessity of creativity in literary translation from English to Chinese.**

### Keywords

**Necessity of creativity, literary translation, English to Chinese.**

### 1. Introduction

Nowadays, in our society, the industry of literary translation is more and more prosperous. Actually, translation is a way of receiving and knowing about the thought from other nations and countries. Not only we people but our society needs such format of communication. People out of thinking is like fish out of water. Therefore, we must have our thought. But everyone has different thinking models, it's important for us to know about others' thought. Communication makes people improve. The necessity of communication is also stressed in a process of cooperation. As an old saying goes, "to learn from others' strong points to offset one's weakness." But how to learn from others without understanding others' thought and opinions? And then, the translators play an important role in the process of translation.

Literary translation is a very significant branch in translation. That is because literary works not only express the opinions of the authors, but also reflect the situation of a society and the people's thought about their society. For example, Jack London, great American realistic writer, often write something to express the social situation and his critic opions of the society he lives in. The Call of the Wild obviously expresses Jack London's positive opinions. And good translators can convey this thought to readers of ohter countries. The importance of literary translation cannot be emphasized too much. But whether creativity is necessary in the process of literary translation? Yes, it's obsvious necessary. But what kinds of creativity in the process of the translation from English to Chinese? How to be creative in this process? May it will help you to find the direction of being creative in literary translation when you finish reading this paper.

### 2. The KINDs of Creativity

First, creativity can be a text of different version. In fact, after a careful observation, it is not difficult to find out that the text we translate is not the original text indeed, but rather an

approximate text or a virtual text produced by the translator in the process of communication with original text.[1] It's impossible for translators to work to get a translation text that is equivalent to the original text. But it can be regarded as a kind of creativity in some way. And this is the first kind of creativity in my opinion.

Second, creativity can be dealing with rehetorical devices in original texts properly. Metaphors of translation are an interesting phenomenon and can serve as an important window through which we perceive our own assumptions about translation.[2] Therefore, translators need to deal with the rhetorical devices properly, otherwise the window might be covered by courtains. From where I stand, this is the second kind of creativity.

Third, creativity can be translators' having a good understanding of both English and Chinese culture. Language and culture are inseparable. [3] And that's why translators are required to master the knowledge of the bilingual cultural background. With the development of time and space, English language makes various changes itself as well as for the needs of different speakers from different cultural backgrounds. [3] When translators are working on English texts from a different age, they should know about the background in advance, which seems to be a kind of creativity to me.

Fourth, creativity can be translators' being flexible. Use different methods of translation when you are faced with different kind of problems. Flexibility does apply to not only tranlators but also people engaging in all kinds of jobs. For translators, it's necessary for them to be flexible. For example, a word may have different meanings and they should be flexible to speculate and examine whether the selected meaning is proper in such context. Being flexible is a kind of creativity from my perspective.

Fifth, creativity can be skeptical while doing translation work. Do not believe the original text's writer too much. Because everyone makes mistakes in his/her life. It is the mistakes he/she has made that help himself/herself to grow in both mental and physical aspects. If some mistakes really exist, do not hesitate to ask. And this also abides by the rule of being honest. I think being skeptical is a kind of creativity.

Sixth, creativity can be using a variety of methods. This means that translators are expected to have been taught of related knowledge and skills systematically and comprehensively. Therefore, a systematic and comprehensive teaching of literary translation is conducive to students' inheritance of excellent traditional translation theories and at the same time, it gives students room for innovation. [4] These all-sided and useful skills will help translators more to be more creative in the process of literary translations. I believe that learning to use fundamental skills is a kind of creativity.

Seventh, creativity can sometimes be achieved by reading all kinds of books. Economic books, novels, fairy tales, political books, literary books, books of wars, books of history..... All of those help to make translators more knowlegeable, and sensitive to words, and more prone to be creative. When a person reads a book, he/she will have the feeling of experiencing the stories of the book all by himself/herself. And then, it will be easier for him/her to understand the plots. From my viewpoint, reading is a way of being creative in the process of literary translation.

### **3. Methods of Being Creative in English-to-Chinese Literary Translation**

First, be tolerant and happy to understand cultural difference, and know the basic information of the writers of literary works. Good translators will work hard to master the characteristics of both English and Chinese culture. Only in this way can they understand the profound meanings of literary works. Translators are expected to ask themselves some questions which are as following. When did the writer write this? What happened to him/her? How was his/her family? What kind of people he/she is?..... This certainly is helped to translators' understanding the writer.

Second, be honest in the process of translation. Being creative doesn't mean cheating. It's forbidden for translators to be dishonest in the process of literary translation. Because one of the most fundamental factors of a qualified translator is honesty. Translators are expected to convey the meanings of original texts as much as he/she can. And this is also showing that the translator respects his/her readers. Remember that the function of translators is helping people of different nations to communicate.

Third, be flexible when doing translation works. Equivalence is a great method of literary translation. But what will you do if you cannot use all the equivalence in your work? Then maybe you should try to be flexible in the process of translation. You can select some rules of equivalence that you feel are the necessary ones in original texts. It's showing the creativity in the translation. If you want to use all the rules of equivalence at the same time, in the end, you will get nothing helpful.

Fourth, master the skills of translation well. You should master some basic methods of translation in a deep degree, such as literal translation, free translation, amplification, omission, conversion and so on. It's just like building a house, and the most important thing is to make the base firm. If you can paint a tree, then you will get a whole forest. But if you cannot draw a drip, then you will not get rain.

#### 4. Conclusion

In such a modern era, translators are expected more and more creative in translation, especially in literary translation. In this paper I discuss and analyse the kinds of creativity in the literary translation from English to Chinese, and the methods of being creative in this process briefly. Translators are faced up with more and more difficulties. But there are always solutions. Remember that being creative is crucial in the English-to-Chinese literary translation and to do it.

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