

On Strategies for the English Translation of Chinese Cultural Classics from the Perspective of Eco-translatology

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Abstract

Cultural classics are the carrier of traditional culture, and the study on the translation of Chinese cultural classics is also one of the main contents in China's current translation field. A better "going out" translation of Chinese classics will play a positive role in eliminating estrangement and enhancing understanding. The core concept of eco-translatology is to emphasize the importance of the translator and the relationship between the translator and the target text, the original text and the translation environment. The principle of "three dimensions" is applicable to the translation of classical books. Translators are supposed to adapt to the translation ecological environment to make adaptive choices, and to adopt appropriate translation strategies so as to better convey Chinese culture.

Keywords

Eco-translatology; Cultural classics; Three dimensional transformation.

1. Introduction

As a country with a long history and an ancient civilization, China has not only a rich history and culture, but also a profound humanistic spirit. The cultural classics are the carrier of these cultures. The translation of Chinese cultural classics is an important way for Chinese culture to go to the world and realize the exchange and integration of Chinese and Western cultures. In the context of globalization and cultural diversification, the translation of Chinese cultural classics is an important way to promote the development of multi-culture, which has its historical and practical significance.

Originated from the ecological wisdom of China, the eco-translatology theory, developed with the ecological thoughts such as "unity of nature and man", "life and harmony" as the main fulcrum, was put forward and established by Hu Gengshen, a professor of Tsinghua University and a famous translator. Based on the combination of oriental ecological wisdom and Darwin's theory of evolution, eco-translatology emphasizes on the harmony and adaptation of the translation context in the process of translation. Translation activities are placed in a broader space and time scope, which is much more than the traditional meaning of context.

Eco-translatology, as an influential translation strategy, needs to be flexibly used in cultural classics translation process. The study of its translation mode and strategy not only helps to improve the quality of translation of Chinese cultural classics and translating ability, but also helps to promote exchanges and communication effectiveness, which are of great realistic significance and practical value.

2. The Connotation and Concepts of Eco-translatology

Eco-translatology originates from the Chinese ecological wisdom and is based on Darwin's theory of evolution. Under the guidance of ecological holism such as "harmony between man and nature" and the evolution principle of "survival of the fittest", Eco-translatology interprets the translation activities, the plight of the translator, including the survival and development of

the translator, responsibility and the dominant role in the process of translation activity. It intensively integrates process, strategy, method and translation phenomena. Eco-translatology is an ecological paradigm of "translation is adaptation and selection", which includes two aspects of "ecology" and "translatology".

2.1. Translational Eco-environment

Translational Eco-environment, or the translation environment for short, refers to all the external factors that affect the subject of translation including the sum total of various natural, social and cultural factors in the process of translation, namely, the world presented by the original text, the source language and the target language, as well as the interconnected and interactive integrity among the translation subjects. In short, all the external environment and factors around except the translator can be regarded as the Translational Eco-environment. It is the external premise and basis for translators to make selective adaptation and adaptive selective to achieve the best adaptation and selection.

2.2. Translation as Adaptation and Selection

On the basis of Wholism, Eco-translatology, respectively from the perspectives of linguistics, cultural science, anthropology perspective, ecology, sums up the translation of the correlation between translation ecological system and ecological system. It combines the "humanistic" research and a "natural" research, with "relational sequence chain" as the clue. In this context, the basic concept of "translation as Adaptation and Selection" is formed, that is, translators need to adapt to the translation ecological environment and follow the translation laws in the process of translation, so as to realize the harmony and unity between translators and the translation ecological environment. According to eco-translatology studies, translation is a process in which translators' adaptation and selection develop alternately, that is, translators should accept the choice of translation ecological environment and take translators as the central guidance on the basis of adapting to the translation environment. "Translator-centered" means that in the process of translation, the translator plays a leading role, produces the translation through his/her actions, and selectively transplants the text with the translator as the leading role. It mainly emphasizes that the translator occupies a central position in the process of translation, and the translation view is dominated by the translator.

2.3. Three-dimensional Transformation

Eco-translatology studies interpret translation methods as adaptive and selective translation of texts by translators in the context of adaptation, the most important of which is three-dimensional transformation, that is, the adaptive selection and transformation of language, culture and communication. The conversion of language dimension refers to the adaptive selection and conversion of the structure and form of the original text, that is, the conversion between two different languages. Adaptive selection and transformation of cultural dimension means that the translator should not only transform the language form between the source language and the target language, but also pay attention to the differences between the source language and the target language culture, so as to transfer the cultural connotation. Adaptive selection and transformation of communicative dimension means that the translator needs to pay attention to the communicative purpose and communicative intention of the source text and the target text.

Eco-translatology, by the interdisciplinary comprehensive analysis, points out that translation is closely related to the aspects such as language, culture and human communication activity. The translator should be at least on the basis of language, culture and communication dimensions to make the choice of translation to adapt to the ecological environment transformation, with concentrated reflection translation ecosystem interactivity, flexibility, balance and the whole effect. The core concepts of eco-translatology studies, such as

"translational eco-environment", "translator-centered" and "three-dimensional transformation", transform translation studies from static studies to dynamic studies, which not only improves the breadth and depth of translation studies, but also completes the transformation of translation perspective from text-centered to translator-centered.

3. Application and Strategies of "Three Dimensional Transformation"

Eco-translatology studies provide a new and scientific way of interpretation for the translation of classic books. In the process of translation, translators follow the principle of "multi-dimensional adaptation and adaptive selection" and adopt the translation method of "three-dimensional transformation" to achieve the transformation of language level, cultural transmission and the realization of communicative intention, so as to give full play to the leading role of translators.

3.1. Adaptive Selection and Transformation Strategy at Language Dimension

Chinese culture is the only uninterrupted cultural system in the world, so it has formed a "humanistic culture of valuing human relations, valuing utensils and morality as the standard". Western culture is scientific culture, emphasizing individual standard and attaching importance to the opposition between human and nature. The psychological differences between the two cultures inevitably lead to the differences in the expression of the two languages, that is, Chinese language emphasizes parataxis and the overall structure of the text, and stresses on the beginning, transition, and symmetry balance. English emphasizes hypotaxis, which emphasizes the rigor between sentence structures. One of the translation methods of eco-translatology studies emphasizes the translator's adaptive selection and conversion in language dimension, that is, the translator's conversion of language form to adapt to the ecological environment of the target language. According to the particularity of the translation of classic books, translators need to convert classical Chinese into modern Chinese, and then translate modern Chinese into English, and

3.2. Adaptive Selection and Transformation Strategy at Cultural Dimension

Adaptive selection and transformation of cultural dimension demands that translators pay attention to the cultural connotation and interpretation of both languages in the process of language dimension transformation. The extensive and profound traditional Chinese culture has a long history and contains the deepest spiritual pursuit of the Chinese nation. Therefore, the external communication of traditional Chinese culture is inseparable from translation. The translation methods adopted by translators in the process of translation are related to the effect of foreign cultural translation and have an important impact on the positioning of the international image. For example, the culture-loaded word "dragon" has distinct national characteristics in Chinese culture. "Dragon" is the symbol of the Chinese nation, a symbol of the national spirit. It is a totem image in ancient China; In western culture, "dragon" is a symbol of evil. "The dragon" refers to "Satan" and "devil". Thus it can be seen that there are huge differences between Chinese and Western cultures in culture-loaded words. However, with the development of internationalization, cultural exchanges between different countries are also increasingly frequent, and the image and connotation of "Chinese dragon" has left a deep impression in the hearts of foreigners. Therefore, the translator can use the "alienation" method to translate it into "loong" and give a proper explanation, aiming to better spread of Chinese culture and inject new vitality into the common development of world culture. In the process of cross-cultural translation, translators make adaptive choices according to the translation ecological environment, and establish the image of Chinese culture through cultural translation, which is conducive to the promotion of Chinese social ideology and values to the world.

3.3. Adaptive Selection and Transformation Strategy at Communicative Dimension

The adaptive selection and transformation of communicative dimension requests the translator's adaptation of bilingual communicative intention in the process of translation, that is, the translator should attach importance to the selection and adaptation at the communicative level while transmitting linguistic information and cultural connotation. The translation of classic books is a kind of cross-cultural communication activity, which is the communication and exchange between two languages and two cultures. Therefore, translators should not only make choices based on language dimension and cultural dimension to adapt to the translation ecological environment, but also integrate the communicative dimension to fully realize the communicative intention. The aim of translation in the communicative dimension is to make the target audience share the same feelings as the readers of the original text. For example, in the translation of Xi Jinping: The Governance of China, the goal is to help foreign readers understand China's governance policy, fundamental stance and practice in dealing with domestic and foreign affairs. This requires translators to make adaptive selections in the communicative dimension.

4. Conclusion

The translation of classics is not only an interlingual and cross-cultural activity, but also a process of language and cultural information transmission. To interpret the translation of classic books from the perspective of eco-translatology studies, the emphasis should be placed on the three-dimensional transformation of language, culture and communication, which are always intertwined and inseparable. It has been proved that the adaptive selection and transformation in the three dimensions of eco-translatology theory is operable and explanatory for the translation of classic books. In the process of translating classic books, translators should give full consideration to the elements of translation ecological environment so as to transcend the aesthetic effects of pure language and to realize selective adaptation. Therefore, guiding the translation of classic books with the theory of eco-translatology is conducive to shaping the self-cultural image and realizing the external communication of Chinese literature and culture.

Acknowledgements

2018 Key Research Project of Economic and Social Development in Heilongjiang Province (Special Subject of Foreign Language): A Study on the Relationship between English Translation of Chinese Cultural Classics and the Development of Translation Studies

Fund No.: WY2018100-C

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